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FIRST EDITION.

LOUISIANA

A MUCH GOVERNED STATE.

Inauguration of Governors Packard and Nicholls—Their Speeches—No End to the Fair Promises—Kellogg Also Harangues the Multitude—Considerable Excitement but No Outbreak.

NEW ORLEANS, January 8.—By noon a large crowd had assembled at St. Patrick's Hall, entirely filling the building, and by one o'clock P. M., some five thousand people had assembled in the streets, Lafayette Square and adjacent buildings. At one P. M., Governor Nicholls left City Hotel for the hall, where he was received with tremendous cheers by the assembled thousands. Governor Nicholls appeared on the balcony at 1:10, where, after prayer by Rev. Dr. Palmer, the oath of office was administered to Governor Nicholls and Mr. Wiltz by Judge Tissat. Governor Nicholls then made the following address:

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives and fellow citizens:

In obedience to the call of my fellow-citizens, as expressed through the ballot-box by a majority of more than 8,000 votes, I assume the duties of Governor of my native State under circumstances of marked difficulty, and as a portion of very general distress. For nine years a few men, having no identification with the people of this State, either in feeling or interest, have usurped and controlled their destinies. The result of this unnatural condition of affairs has been that, in spite of our rich soil, general climate and immense resources, we find our peoples to-day in wretchedness and poverty. The very gifts of a kind and beneficient Creator have served to these men as additional incentives to acts of oppression and wrong. Not satisfied with the injury they have inflicted, the authors of these calamities are again struggling to maintain their ascendency by fraud, and to establish over this people a usurpation more glaring and infamous than that which ends to-day its baneful existence. The people of this State are determined, and I also am determined, that this effort shall be foiled. The rights and liberties of Louisiana must not be suffered to be destroyed. There may be grave difficulties in the present manner of dealing with this matter, but they will be overcome, and thereafter, upon the duly and legally constituted authorities of the State, will devolve the proper administration of its affairs. The material prosperity of Louisiana and the happiness of her people must be restored, and this can only be accomplished by the truth and energy of the people co-operating with honesty, fidelity, integrity and patriotism on the part of their representatives. Self must be sunk and the general good alone serve as a guide to the civil and political actions of each citizen. The law, operating equally upon and for the people without distinction of race, class, color or condition, must alone be found on the statute books, and these laws should be thoroughly, fairly and impartially executed. In this way confidence and hope will prevail, and this State will speedily become a home of happiness and peace for all its children, for the weak as well as the strong, poor as well as rich. The first object of all government is to secure peace, plenty and prosperity, and to give the largest possible opportunity for development to the individual citizen. His interest should be its constant aim, and citizens should recognize and feel the good only through its beneficent and vivifying influence. How nearly the governments erected in this unfortunate State in the last nine years have been based upon or have realized these ideas, may best be seen in the picture of misery which is reflected on all sides. How nearly the government at the head of which I have the honor to be will realize them can only be determined when that government shall have been fairly put to the test; but I can assure you that they are the principles by which my conduct shall be guided. As the Chief Magistrate of this Commonwealth, I shall devote every energy to the great work of restoration, and to securing the wisest administration of public affairs with the least possible cost to those upon whom the burdens of State rest. Honesty and capacity will be required as absolute conditions to appointment, and every avenue by which the people can be injured will be carefully guarded to the extent of the legal power of the Executive. It shall be a great object in my administration to promote kindness, sympathy, confidence and justice between the two races that inhabit the soil, and who, with a common interest, should cordially co-operate to secure the common good. In fine, fellow-citizens, I shall invoking the blessing and assistance of Almighty God, earnestly and conscientiously endeavor to do my duty.

The balcony of St. Patrick's Hall was draped with flags of all nations, surmounted by the American flag. At the conclusion of Governor Nicholls' address, the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Father Allen. Governor Nicholls and Wiltz were then escorted by the legislative committee to Odd Fellows' Hall, where they received the congratulations of their friends. The crowd in and about St. Patrick's Hall, estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000 people, including a large number of ladies, quietly dispersed.

Governor Nicholls appointed Colonel Thomas Boyland, the well known detective, Chief of the Metropolitan police. Boyland has established his headquarters at Masonic Hall, where a force is being organized.

To'ther Governor.

There was little excitement in the vicinity of the State House to-day, attending the inauguration of Governor Packard. A heavy force of police was on duty, and admitted those who had passes. About 200 persons were admitted. At one o'clock Governor Packard entered the House of Representatives, which was festooned with flags. Many ladies were in attendance. The band played "Hail to the Chief," after which the Legislature was called to order. Governor Kellogg, in introducing Mr. Packard, said:

Circumstances recall in many respects the condition of affairs prevailing four years ago, when I entered upon the duties of Chief Executive. Then, as now, a claimant to the same position went through the form of inauguration at the same time in another place; then, as now, a majority of the members elect declared elected to the General Assembly organized in the semblance of a Legislature; then, as now, it was declared that the government which represented the will of the minority would never be recognized by the minority; then, as now, the business community were disquieted by a tyrannical junta into a pronunciamento of tax resistance. Here the comparison ceases. Four years ago, the incoming Administration received no aid from the government it superseded. Every department of the State governments is now in accord, and the legally recognized, unquestioned Governor of the State, acknowledged even by other branches of that government is elsewhere setting up the pretence of government. I introduce to you the next Governor of Louisiana, and tender to him, on behalf of the outgoing government, the prompt recognition of his just claims, and every aid and encouragement it may be in our power to bestow. An Independent Republican, a Union man and co-laborer of the lamented late Lieutenant Governor Dunn, always faithful to his party, of tried ability and integrity, in your name and my own I bid him good speed.

Chief Justice Ludeling administered the oath of office. Governor Packard read his inaugural. The pleasure with which he received his credentials from the representatives of the people was clouded with the recollection that many co-laborers in the cause of Republican freedom had fallen in death, and thousands had been constrained through fear to avoid the ballot-box, or to vote against their will. Why this recourse to violence? Majorities had no occasion to use force, for votes alone reserved to it. He had received a majority of the votes freely, fairly and lawfully cast; he had been declared elected Governor in the manner required by the Constitution and laws of the State. He should invoke all the powers conferred upon him to enforce obedience to the laws, to command enduring peace for Louisiana. Amendments to the criminal law recently adopted provided that prosecutions in capital cases might be either by information or indictment, and authorized the Attorney General to change the venue of cases when, in his judgment, a fair trial could not be had in the parish in which the crime had been committed. These and other enactments would enable the law officers, in cases of conspiracy such as had characterized the last election, to remove the accused for trial beyond the influence and power of co-conspirators. The Constitution of the United States afforded adequate remedies where combinations existed beyond the power of the State authorities to deal with. The nation has in the Executive chair a President who has never faltered in his obligations to guard the national honor. Having enforced the union of the States, he will see his duty than it is his pleasure, under the Constitution, to maintain the rights of the humblest citizen in every portion of the national domain. The constitutionality of the laws under which the State government claimed title had never been successfully questioned. The party denying its valid title because the votes polled by violent and unlawful practices had not been counted, was especially stopped by its own action under the same law in 1872, when the Returning Board constituted by and in accord with that party threw out the statements of votes actually cast in several parishes, and on that canvass based the pretended title of the McEnery government. He enumerated a number of national measures necessary for the welfare of the State, such as the protection of the sugar and rice industries, national aid for levees and construction of railroads through Texas and New Mexico to the Pacific coast, with connections to New Orleans, the establishment of commercial intercourse with South America by postal connection. Expressing satisfaction that Mr. Hayes, the President-elect, stood pledge to maintain the policy of the Republican party in this regard, in contradition to the traditional policy of the Democracy, he said: "It will be my object to keep in view my obligation to execute the laws and maintain the public peace, to convince my constituents that every act is intended to promote their welfare, to secure for the State a just proportion of national favor, to develope those physical and moral resources upon which the prosperity and progress of every State must depend, and to appease by just and liberal policy the discontent which has so long repressed the energies and darkened the future of the most favored land in the American Union."

About two o'clock, when Lieutenant Governor Antoine was concluding his remarks, a crowd of about six hundred persons collected on Royal street, in front of the State House, and after hooting and jeering at the police at the door, began pelting them with oyster shells and other missiles, and yelling "Let's put them out." The doors were closed, and some parties then proceeded to deface Governor Kellogg's carriage, which was standing near. Thomas Boyland, Nicholls' newly appointed Chief of Police, appeared and dispersed the crowd. The city is quiet to-night. A large crowd assembled in front of Masonic Hall, where Nicholls' police are being enrolled. As an attack on the station houses was expected, they have been barricaded and reinforced to prevent the Democrats from taking them by force. The Democrats are elated by the reports from Washington that the President will not recognize either Governor for the present.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1877.

SENATE.

Mr. Sherman presented a petition from prominent business men and citizens of Cincinnati, members of both political parties, asking for an amicable settlement of the Presidential contest. He spoke of the high standing of the petitioners, and said he commended the petition to the Senate.

It was referred to the special committee considering the Presidential question. The committee was authorized to sit during the sessions of the Senate.

Mr. Morton, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, submitted a report showing the questions propounded on Saturday to Don Runyon, of the firm of Runyon & Runyon, bankers and brokers of New York, in regard to who ordered the check of $8,000 drawn by his house in favor of Ladd & Bush, of Salem, Oregon, and his refusal to answer, with a resolution directing the President of the Senate to issue his warrant for the arrest of Runyon, have him brought to the bar of the Senate and show why he should not be punished for contempt. Order presented. Mr. Morton gave notice that he would call the matter up for action to-morrow.

The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, calling the attention of Congress to the present condition of the appropriation for the payment of temporary clerks in that department, and asking an additional appropriation of $20,000 for the payment of such clerks during the remainder of this fiscal year, in order that the business of the department may not be embarrassed or delayed. Referred.

Mr. Sherman presented a petition of citizens of Ohio, asking Congress to adopt measures to secure cheap telegraphy. Referred

By a vote yeas 35, nays 3, a resolution was passed which was recently reported by the Committee on Privileges and Elections, requiring William M. Turner, manager of the Western St. Louis postoffice at Jacksonville, Oregon, to answer the questions propounded as to messages which passed through his office in regard to the appointment of Cronin as Presidential elector, and the check of $8,000 alleged to have been drawn in New York in favor of Ladd & Bush, of Salem, Oregon. The Senators voting no were Messrs. Barnum, Burnside and Eaton.

Mr. Booth submitted a concurrent resolution prescribing rules for the counting of votes for President and Vice President, which provide that it shall be the right of any member of the Senate or House of Representatives, when assembled in joint convention to count the electoral vote, to object to any certificate, upon which objection the President *pro tempore* of the Senate shall rule, and appeal may then be taken from such decision, when the two Houses shall separate and decide whether the ruling of the Chair shall be affirmed. In case of disagreement, an appeal can be taken to the Supreme Court, and the contested vote shall be decided in accordance with the decision of said court. The Judges of the Supreme Court, in deciding such contest, may receive in evidence the proceedings of any State officer board of State officers, and reports of Congressional committees. Ordered printed. Mr. Booth gave notice that he would submit some remarks on the subject.

Mr. Wallace submitted a series of resolutions instructing the special committee on the Presidential question to report as to the powers of the several colleges, and as to whether each House of Congress may examine both the facts and law to enable it to determine if the returns are true returns, if the appointment of electors by the State was in accordance with the provisions and guarantees of the Federal Constitution, and further, that when two returns come from a State, the two Houses, acting concurrently, must determine which is the true return, and no electoral vote can be counted without the concurrence of both Houses. He spoke at some length upon these propositions.

Mr. Ingalls introduced a bill to secure the rights of settlers upon certain railroad lands, and to repeal the first five sections of the act of July 25, 1866, granting lands to the State of Kansas to aid in the construction of the Kansas and Kenosha Railway and its extension. Referred.

After a short executive session, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Under the call of States, bills and resolutions were introduced and referred, including the following:

By Mr. Chittenden, for paying the legal tender debts in harmony with justice and the pledged faith of the Government. This is the same bill which he tried to introduce before the holidays.

By Mr. Milliken, by request, to extend for two years the Southern Claims Commission.

By Mr. Bright, for free coinage of silver dollars, and making the same a legal tender. This bill was referred to the Committee on Mines and Mining, notwithstanding the efforts of Messrs. O'Brien, of Maryland, and Kasson, of Iowa, to have it referred to the Committee on Coinage.

By Mr. Hunter, to authorize and equip an expedition to the Arctic seas. It authorizes the President to organize and send out one or more expeditions toward the North Pole, and to establish a temporary colony for the purpose of exploration at some point north of the 81st degree of north latitude, on or near the shore of Lady Franklin bay, to detail officers or other persons in the public service to take part in the same, and to use any public vessel that may be suitable for the purpose. Scientific operations of the expedition to be prosecuted in accordance with the advice of the National Academy of Science, and appropriating $50,000 for the purpose.

By Mr. Clarke, authorizing the construction of a railroad bridge across the Missouri river at Glasgow, Mo.

By Mr. Kehr, for the further redemption of legal tender United States notes.

By Mr. Buckner, to utilize the product of the gold and silver mines and to authorize a paper circulation convertible into gold and silver. Also, to provide for counting the Presidential electoral votes.

Mr. Lawrence asked consent to offer a resolution instructing the Committee on Education and Labor to ascertain whether in every State, an equal opportunity for a common school education, including school privileges for equal time, is secured to colored and white children, and if not, to report a bill to enforce the Constitution in that respect.

Mr. Knott objected.

Mr. Lawrence moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution. Rejected, yeas 119, nays 78—not two-thirds in the affirmative.

Mr. Kasson offered a resolution instructing the Select Committee on Privileges of the House in regard to the counting of the electoral votes to inquire whether any electoral votes were cast by persons laboring under political disabilities, and if so what action should be taken thereon. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Willis, the Select Committee on Privileges of the House in regard to the counting of the electoral votes, was instructed to inquire whether votes were given during the recent election contrary to the prohibition contained in the Constitution "that no United States official shall be chosen as a Presidential elector."

On motion of Mr. LeMoyne, a select committee was authorized to inquire into the alleged improprieties of conduct on the part of the Police Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

A resolution calling for information as to the purposes for which troops have recently been stationed at Washington was defeated for want of a two-thirds majority. So also was a resolution requiring the Judiciary Committee to report within two days a constitutional amendment prohibiting the payment of war claims, except to loyal persons.

Mr. Mills, of Texas, moved to suspend the rules and adopt the following:

Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own laws, that it is essential to the balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depends, and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the several States or Territories, no matter under what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

The second reading of the resolution was called for, when Mr. Kasson suggested that it did not contain the words "subject to the Federal Constitution."

Several members on the Democratic side, who did not seem to approve the policy of offering such a resolution, suggested to Mr. Holman to move adjournment, which he did, while on the Republican side the suggestion went around to oppose an adjournment and to force a vote on the resolution.

The motion to adjourn was defeated, 79 to 95, and a vote was taken on the motion to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution. It was lost, yeas 107, nays 82.

The Speaker announced as the select committee to investigate the corrupt or improper conduct of the Washington Police Commissioners Messrs. LeMoyne, Milliken, Candler, of Georgia, Banks and W. R. Williams, of Michigan.

Adjourned.

ANOTHER OCEAN DISASTER.

Collision Between the Seminole and Montgomery.

Latter Sunk and Thirteen Lives Lost.

BOSTON, January 8.—The steamer Seminole, of the Boston and Savannah Line, arrived to-night, reports on the morning of the 7th, about forty miles off Cape May, she collided in a thick fog with the steamer Montgomery, of and from New York for Havana, striking her just abaft the wheelhouse, cutting her down to the water and sinking her in a few minutes. The second officer, eight of the crew and four Spanish passengers, names unknown, went down with the Montgomery. The saved were brought to this port on the Seminole. The second officer, Mr. Aschen, was pinioned by pieces of the wreck and went down uttering piteous cries for assistance.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

John S. Phelps, Governor-elect, was inaugurated at Jefferson City, Mo., yesterday afternoon, in the presence of the Legislature and a large number of people from all parts of the State. In his inaugural address he pays a high compliment to the common school system, alludes to the great mineral resources of the State, urges the strictest economy in every branch of government, and dwells at some length upon national affairs.

The Arkansas Legislature met to-day at twelve o'clock, and organized by the election of the following officers: Senate—J. K. Jones, of Hempstead, President; Jacob Frohlick, of White, Secretary; C. A. Wood, of Pulaski, Assistant. In the House, D. L. Kilgore, of Columbia, was elected Speaker; Thomas W. Newton, of Pulaski, Secretary; John C. Holmd, of White, Assistant. The Governor's message will probably be delivered to-day.

The Democratic Legislature of Louisiana yesterday passed bill No. 1, amending the election law and repealing sections 25 and 26, providing for purity and freedom of elections. The bill provides that the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senators representing the different parties, shall constitute the Board of Canvassers, who are authorized to canvass and make returns of the votes cast at the late election, and to authorize contest for offices in some cases.

The Tennessee House adopted yesterday, by a vote of 51 to 17, the joint resolutions offered by Mr. Stokes, characterizing the use of troops in South Carolina and Louisiana as an extraordinary use of arbitrary power, meriting the hearty condemnation of the liberty loving people of the country, also deprecating all Federal Executive interference in the State elections for partisan purposes, and invoking the law abiding spirit of the people to assert their rights and effectuate the will of the people as expressed in the late elections. The Senate had adjourned when the resolutions were adopted.

Both houses of the Indiana Legislature met in joint session in the Academy of Music, Indianapolis, yesterday, to witness the inauguration ceremonies. At 11:30 o'clock Governor-elect J. D. Williams appeared on the stage, and was received most enthusiastically. The retiring Lieutenant Governor, Seaton, as presiding officer of the joint session, opened the exercises, and was followed by Rev. Mr. Randolph leading in prayer. Governor Williams was dressed in a suit of blue jeans given him by the ladies of Louisville. Being sworn in, the oath of office by Supreme Court, in deciding such contest, may receive in evidence the proceedings of any State officer board of State officers, and reports of Congressional committees. Ordered printed. Mr. Booth gave notice that he would submit some remarks on the subject.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To-Day.—Rising, followed by falling barometer, cold, westerly winds, backing to warmer, southerly or easterly, and clear or partly cloudy weather, probably succeeded by snow.

Ten French nuns for Illinois are among the passengers by the stranded steamship Amerique.

The steamship Anglia, from London to New York, twenty-eight days out, put in at Halifax short of coal.

The employees of the Trenton, N. J., potteries, 1,500 persons, struck to-day in consequence of twenty per cent. reduction of wages.

The anniversary of the battle of New Orleans was celebrated by the Democracy at Columbus, Ohio, yesterday, in an enthusiastic manner.

The British Foreign Office has forwarded to the Government of the United States the relics of Porter's expedition brought to England by Captain Nares.

Between Saturday evening and Sunday morning, some memento-lover took the mourning crape (value $20) from the door of the late Commodore Vanderbilt's residence.

A Virginia City dispatch says: In the pigeon match between Bogardus and George Daly, fifty birds each, at twenty six yards rise, Bogardus shot thirty-seven, Daly thirty-six.

The amount of rain or rain and melted snow for the past week averages about as follows in the various districts: St. Lawrence Valley, 0.55 inch; New England, 0.45; Middle Atlantic States, 1.00; South Atlantic States, 1.80; Eastern Gulf States, 0.90; Western Gulf States, 1.75; Lower Lake region, 0.25; Upper Lake region, 0.25; Ohio Valley, 0.12; Tennessee, 0.50; Upper Mississippi Valley, 0.10; Missouri Valley, 0.15; Minnesota, 0.06.

A Portland, Oregon, press dispatch says a large railroad meeting was held yesterday. Resolutions were adopted asking the members of Congress to use their endeavors to secure the extension of time for six years for the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad from Duluth to Puget Sound; that the road be built on the south side of Columbia river from Portland as far east as Umatilla before crossing the river, thence to such a connecting point as the best interest of the company may direct; that at least forty miles of road be built each year, commencing at Portland and extending east till finished; that as an earnest of good faith, work be begun July 1, 1877; that the amount of land to be dropped from the northern branch road be transferred to such railway company as may be organized by authority of Congress to extend from Sioux City, Iowa, through the Black Hills from Portland. A resolution was adopted authorizing a committee to correspond with the officers of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company or other railroad companies or capitalists, and ascertain what will be required of the people of Oregon to induce the companies to commence the construction of a road connecting the State with the East.

Rev. Drs. William M. Taylor, R. S. Storrs, W. I. Buddington, H. M. Scudder, Ruy Palmer, George H. Hepworth, David B. Coe, A. H. Clapp, Benjamin F. Martin, William H. Ward and several other clergymen of New York and Brooklyn, have united to form a new local Congregational association, most of them having withdrawn from the old association in consequence of its indorsement of Mr. Beecher.

Death From Taking Ether.

RAHWAY, January 6.—Ether was administered last evening to Walter Lewis, aged twelve, that a tooth might be extracted, and in fifteen minutes the boy died.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

The Late Robbery at the Treasury.

The Culprit, a Clerk, Arrested.

He Proves to be a Former Bank President.

The Visit of the Russian Squadron.

The Distinguished Visitors to Have a Fitting Reception.

A LOVELY EXHIBITION IN THE HOUSE.

The Commissionership of Patents.

An Able Speech by Senator Wallace.

Status of the Appropriation Bills.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1877.

The Late Treasury Robbery.

Ever since the fact became known that a package containing $11,000 had been stolen either from the United States Treasury or from the Adams Express Company, while in transit from this city to Chicago, the officers of the secret service and the detectives in the employ of the express company have been diligently at work ferreting out the case. On Saturday they were rewarded by the return of eleven hundred dollars of the amount, and to-day at half-past two o'clock, the thief was arrested by Chief Brooks and his first assistant, Mr. Benson, of the secret service, in the private office of Mr. Wyman, the Treasurer. The name of the culprit is Ferdinand S. Winslow, a native of Denmark, but for some time a resident in this country. He was the President of the Scandinavian National Bank of Chicago at the time that institution failed, was recommended to a Government appointment by Senators Logan and Allison, Representative Farwell and others equally distinguished. Winslow was formerly in the First Auditor's office, from whence he was transferred, about six months since, to the cash room. When arrested, he had on his person two hundred dollars of the money stolen, which was easily identified by the cashier, who had marked the bills at the time of the robbery, which were nearly all of the denomination of one hundred dollars. When taken in charge by the detectives, he declined to make any statements in regard to or answer all relative to the theft. Shortly after his arrest Winslow was lodged in jail, and will have a preliminary hearing before Police Court this morning. His arrest proved a great relief to the old clerks of the cash room, who have stood the test of long years of service without incurring the slightest suspicion of their honesty.

Honors to the Russian Squadron.

Official notice was some time since given to our Government of the intended visit of the Russian Mediterranean squadron to the United States. This information was laid before the President, and decided upon to receive the distinguished visitors in a most creditable manner. Prominent officers of our navy now on duty in Washington and ports adjacent to New York, will be on hand to welcome and exchange courtesies with the Russian officers. It is expected that the Russian vessels will arrive at New York next week. Messengers from St. Petersburg have arrived here bearing dispatches and mails for the squadron.

A Frisky Virginian.

Representative Douglass, of Virginia, to-day made a lively exhibition of himself on the floor of the House. He had evidently been taking advantage of the abrogation of the joint rules, despite Speaker Randall's construction to the contrary, and made some remarks of a personal character which were only prevented from becoming combative by the interposition of friends. He was carried to the cloak room, and kept a prisoner by the sergeant-at-arms.

The Commissionership of Patents.

Representative MacDougal had an interview with the President to-day, stating that he would determine to-morrow whether he could accept the Commissionership of Patents. The profession of the country entertains a high opinion of Representative MacDougal's fitness for the position.

The Speech of Senator Wallace

To-day, on his resolutions respecting the counting of the electoral vote, was recognized by both Democrats and Republicans as the ablest explanation of the Democratic theory on that subject yet delivered in the Senate. When he finished he was warmly congratulated, and to-night a number of gentlemen called at his lodgings to compliment him upon his efforts.

The Appropriation Bills.

Mr. Holman said to-day that he expected to have all the appropriation bills passed by the House by the 25th inst. He favored the reduction of salaries of ministers abroad, but not double as the Senate amendment would sustain him. In other respects the bills would not materially differ from those of the present fiscal year, as there is no time to make the modifications originally contemplated.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1877.

ARREST OF A TREASURY CLERK.

F. S. Winslow, a clerk in the cash room of the Treasury Department, has been arrested, charged with the larceny of the $12,000 package recently stolen from the cash room.

THE OREGON INVESTIGATION.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections continued, this morning, the investigation of the Oregon electoral matter by the examination of Charles Dimond, 115 Liberty street, New York.

Dimond testified that he is a banker doing business for A. E. & C. E. Tilton, New York, Ladd & Bush, of Oregon, and others. Witness met the firm of Martin & Runyon on the 6th of December for the first time; that day Runyon came to witness' office and left word that he wanted to see witness; witness went to Runyon's office and Runyon gave him a check for $8,000, payable to Ladd & Bush; witness gave Runyon the following dispatch, which was read:

To Messrs. Ladd & Bush, Salem, Oregon:

Messrs. Martin & Runyon have deposited $8,000 to your account.

The dispatch was in the cipher used by him and those he does business with. He was not requested to put the dispatch in cipher nor to keep the transaction secret. Ladd & Bush telegraphed witness, December 11, "to return the $8,000 to Martin & Runyon;" does not know why the $8,000 was returned unused; went to the office of Martin & Runyon last Saturday, but held no conversation with either, except as to the necessity of his [witness] coming to Washington to testify. After further negative testimony, the witness said he would produce, without subpœna, the letter book containing his correspondence with Ladd & Bush and Ladd & Tilton, of Oregon.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Chamberlain Thinks the President or Congress Will Have to Decide Who Is the Legal Governor.

NEW YORK, January 8.—The *Herald's* correspondent telegraphs from Columbia that Governor Chamberlain said to him yesterday that the action of the Hampton government in providing for the lunatics, orphans and destitute relieved him of the greatest embarrassments, and he was gratified that the Democratic taxpayer and other charitably disposed persons had assumed the care of these unfortunates. Governor Chamberlain does not think that this voluntary contribution of taxes will have any effect whatever in deciding who is the legal Governor of the State. He says that the question of the Governorship cannot be decided by the people of the State now, nor by any tribunal in the State, but that it will be settled in Washington, either by Congress or the President. He does not look forward to any collisions or clashes of authority that would be serious, and all minor conflicts as to possession of offices would find easy and peaceful solution in the courts.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

The boiler of the Cincinnati *Times* Company burst yesterday noon, doing no damage except to prevent the issue of that paper.

An old lady named Bessie Fulton stepped off a train at Osborn station, fourteen miles from Dayton, Ohio, on Sunday morning at two o'clock, and was led away from the town by two ruffians and brutally outraged. She is past fifty years of age, and lives near Syracuse, New York. A telegraph operator named Naden heard her cries and rescued her and captured one of the assailants.

The Monterey county, Cal., Court House at Salinas City, was burnt on Sunday night. The records were saved except those in the tax collector's office.

The Political Situation

More Opinions from the President

His Duties and Powers in the District---Protection of Government Property and Preservation of the Peace---An Inauguration of President Outside of Washington Would be Null and Void---He Will Surrender the Reins of Government to Whoever is Legally Declared Elected.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1877.

The President has given close attention to the constitutional and statutory provisions respecting the political status of the District of Columbia, and the duties of the Executive in the protection of the millions of Government property here concentrated, in the event of the pending difficulties surrounding the political situation resulting in a revolutionary attempt at a dual inauguration. In making these investigations, he has acted in his capacity of Chief Magistrate of the nation, and as the head of one of the co-ordinate branches of the Government, in assuming which he swore to faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and to the best of his ability to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. In the execution of the office of President he has become the trustee, so to speak, of the people during his official term for all public property of the nation, and to defend it against mutilation or destruction by warlike demonstrations, or from occupation or possession in contravention of a formal transfer incident to a change of administration. In advising himself of his duties, the President has had no consultation with Vice President Ferry, nor with any of the members of the Senate committee now engaged in an effort to determine upon a plan for counting the electoral vote which may afford a satisfactory solution of the present difficulties; nor have the Vice President or the members of the Senate committee volunteered any opinions or suggestions; therefore the President does not know what their views are, nor what construction they place upon their constitutional powers. The President has, therefore, made up his mind as to his duty simply to meet any contingency that might arise, and to the fullest extent of which he will act up to the last moment of responsibility as President and Magistrate. To use his own language, "When all the political power and responsibility vested in me by the suffrages of the people shall have been declared by constitutional limitation, which will be on the fourth day of March, I shall be ready to willingly surrender this responsibility; but until then I shall exercise the office as President, and protect and defend the Constitution. It is not my province to determine the question of an election, but to execute the laws. Whoever is declared to be my constitutional successor, to him will I surrender the reins of Government. To me it is not Governor Hayes or Governor Tilden, but who is President; and whoever is so declared will be installed in possession of the Executive power."

The President very much deprecated the political demonstrations which are being held in different parts of the country, as only tending to unnecessarily inflame the already much agitated public mind. He thought that it was not the part of patriotism at this juncture to indulge in such proceedings, and he thought that wise counsels should prevail; that at this moment there was naturally much uncertainty, and, perhaps, apprehension, as to the issue of the present political complications, and that it was unwise to foster these in an attempt to create public sentiment in the interest of either party; that, so far as he had ascertained through the newspapers, these political demonstrations were carried on by the Democratic party, but for what purpose he could not tell, for if they were incipient revolutionary measures, he thought they would be condemned by the people, as the vast financial business and industrial interests of the country would discountenance any such method of settling the Presidential question; that if they were intended to overawe those constitutionally entrusted with the settlement of the question, they would fail in that, therefore, he could see no other results to be attained than a mischievious agitation of the public mind. The President said that there was some talk, which he presumed was inspired, in the same sentiment which gave origin to the public meetings now being held by the Democratic party, of inaugurating Mr. Tilden at Albany, but he considered that such a step could not be taken in a legal way, should Governor Hayes be declared legally elected; that there certainly could not be two Presidents legally elected. He said that the only place, in the present status of things, in which the inauguration could take place was in the city of Washington, so that a separate inauguration in any other city than Washington would have no effect. Under the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution, Congress was to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district, not exceeding ten miles square, as may by cession of particular States and Territories and the acceptance of Congress become the seat of government of the United States. The act of July 16th, 1790, accepted a district of ten miles square on the Potomac river from within the States of Virginia and Maryland, and a donation of a large sum of money from each of those States was accepted as a fund to defray the expense of the erection of public buildings, which were to be erected prior to the first Monday in December, 1800, for the accommodation of Congress and the Presidents, and the public officers of the Government of the United States shall, by virtue of this act, be transferred to the district and place aforesaid, and all offices attached to the said seat of government shall accordingly be removed thereto by their respective holders, and shall, after the said day, cease to be exercised elsewhere, and that the necessary expenses of such removal shall be defrayed out of the duties on imports and tonnage, of which sufficient sum is hereby appropriated, &c. The amendatory act of 1791 and all subsequent legislation, he said, had recognized the District of Columbia and the city of Washington as the permanent seat of government, which could not be changed, except upon the concurrent action of the two Houses of Congress. The President said that he believes the exercise of Executive functions other than at Washington would be strictly unconstitutional and void, and in this connection the President referred to the resolution of the House of Representatives last session, in which inquiry was made as to the official acts performed by the Executive at places other than the seat of government. The President said that he had never performed Executive acts other than at Washington; that during the first six years of his administrator, during the heated term he had made fortnightly visits to Cincinnati, but transacted all the official business requiring his attention, and during the past two years all records and Executive acts were executed at Washington, from which place they were dated. He was always fully conscious of the force of the statutes which made Washington the governing city of the nation, and had conformed his Executive action to the spirit and letter. An inauguration anywhere than in Washington, the President said, would therefore, with the laws standing as they do at present, be null and void, and that any attempt to exercise authority under such circumstances could not be recognized, and any recognition of such assumed authority by any officer of the Government would be treason. The President's authority, he said, exercised in accordance with the law is as supreme in the District of Columbia as if it were a garrisoned fortress, and any demonstration or warlike concentration of men threatening the peace of the city or endangering the security of public property or treasure of the Government could be summarily dealt with, should the public safety demand, by a declaration of martial law. The President said that he could not think that any political party would assume so grave a responsibility as a step which would necessitate such an extreme exercise of Executive authority, for he believed that party would be condemned to lasting oblivion by the almost unanimous voice of the people. The President said that in any event he had the will of the people would prevail, and had yet confidence in wiser counsels than threats and intimidation.

Governor Anthony was inaugurated at Topeka, Kansas, yesterday afternoon, in the presence of a great crowd of spectators. Both the outgoing and incoming Governors made brief and appropriate addresses. Governor Anthony, in his inaugural, referred to the rapid growth and development of the State, and said that last year we raised nearly fifteen million bushels of wheat, and could easily raise fifty bushels of corn. We have thirty-nine hundred schools houses, at a cost of two and a quarter millions of dollars, and a permanent, interest bearing school fund of two million three hundred thousand dollars. He also said he seeks no office higher than the one he has been elected to, which is construed to mean that he is not a candidate for United States Senator.

UBIQUITOUS DUELISTS.

NEWS FROM ALL ALONG THE LINE.

The Fight Said to Have Taken Place in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Canada—Bennett Arrives at the Continental, Philadelphia, at Midnight—He Refuses to Let an Anxious World Know About the Result—General Barlow Says May is Seriously Wounded.

NEW YORK, January 8.—The following extra is issued here: It is reported in Wall street that a private dispatch from Canada has been received, announcing that a duel had been fought between Bennett and May, and that Bennett had been shot in the bowels.

MONTREAL, January 8.—Great excitement exists here over the rumored duel between Frederick May and James Gordon Bennett. Our city reporters are hanging around the telegraph offices waiting for the first news of the encounter. No trace of the parties has yet been found. All the telegraph offices along the frontier are on the *qui vive* watching for the duelists. The party took their tickets through to Montreal but left the cars somewhere this side of the province line.

BALTIMORE, January 8.—A rumor prevails here to-night that the Bennett-May duel took place to-day in Maryland, but diligent inquiry at the Maryland Club and of gentlemen who would most likely be advised of such an occurrence fails to trace the rumor to any authentic source. The report that Dr. Fred. May, of Baltimore, has not been seen in the city since early this forenoon lends credence to the report. Intimate and confidential friends of the Mays decline to give any information, saying they are not at liberty to make any disclosure at present.

WASHINGTON, January 8.—A report circulates here at midnight that May and Bennett fought to-day near Havre De Grace, Md., but it cannot be authenticated, and no details of the reports I meeting are given.

BALTIMORE, January 8.—The steward of the Maryland Club states positively that Dr. Fred. May was there at eight o'clock this morning, but not since. The brother of Dr. Fred. May in this city was visited to-night, and in response to several questions said: "I his lips were sealed, and he could not answer as to whether a duel occurred to-day or not. "You will," said he, "appreciate my situation." He was evidently anxious.

MONTREAL, January 8.—

The Commercial.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1877.

THERE is a remarkable activity in oats, purchases in New York, principally for export, being of unusual magnitude. It looks like a European war speculation.

IN all the principal Atlantic coast cities the merchants in all departments are shut up or saddled with an onerous expense in moving goods, which is almost impossible, and commerce is practically at a stand still.

THE strained pretense of indignation over President-elect HAYES' prospective inauguration was maintained with great difficulty by the Democratic bulldozers, yesterday. The cue was given from TILDEN'S headquarters that violent expressions would not do.

A NEW phase of Democratic "economy" is presented in the numerous bills that have already passed the House, making appropriations to meet contingent expenses incurred last session and which were unprovided for in order that the Democrats might make a false showing of reductions of expenditures for campaign effect. Many more deficiencies of a similar kind will have to be provided for before adjournment.

THE tenor of recent speeches by such representative Southerners as BEN HILL and LAMAR, encourages the hope that the narrow "statesmanship" of RANDALL, WOOD and COX is not to be the controlling element in shaping events in this critical epoch of our history. No class of men will rejoice more than will the leaders of the Republican party, to find that they have in any way mistaken the temper of representative Southern men.

IT is now intimated that the secret of the firm front maintained by Turkey is that the great Jewish financiers have resolved to help the Porte through resentment at the persecution of the Jews in Roumania. This, if true, is a strange turn to affairs, but still it is not impossible. At no time in its history has Judaism been more powerful than it is to-day, as witness the cabinets and parliaments of Europe, and the literary and business circles of the world.

RUMORS of a new coal combination are rife in New York. The objects of the new scheme are variously stated, most people, however, inclining to the belief that it only proposes to limit production. But this is already being done, and needs no combination to effect it. Hence, if there is any combination probable, it would seem that it must mean more than this. Yet it is not likely that such a combination as the old one can be formed again, much less maintained.

JUDGING from present indications it will not be long before TWEED and the rest of the Tammany robbers are permitted to walk the streets of New York with impunity. To compromise with these wretches and allow them to go free, is to place a premium upon ring misrule and rascality in the future. If SWEENEY, CONNOLLY *et al.* are now to secure immunity through a partial restitution, the bad men who seemingly always will rule that city will be encouraged to organize similar rings for despoiling the metropolis and piling up its already mountain flood of debt.

THE compromise relative to the construction of the proposed railroad from Texas to the Pacific has been effected, except as to the exact point where the Texas Pacific road and the Southern Pacific of California shall unite, and also as to the point where the road from San Diego should intersect the main line. It is settled, however, that the point of junction of the two roads will be fixed somewhere in the coal fields of New Mexico about one hundred miles west of El Paso by the surveyed railroad route, or about forty miles west of the Rio Grande in a direct line.

GOVERNOR GROVER, of Oregon, admitted in his testimony before the Senate committee that MANTON MARBLE, Mr. HEWITT and the redoubtable "Duke" GWIN, all telegraphed to GROVER to instruct him what his duty was in the case of WATTS, the ineligible elector, and finally these persons sent to Oregon an agent named PATRICK, who was the bearer of private information respecting the best methods of managing the situation. He also admitted that he took the course he did in consequence of this interference and dictation from abroad. The proof is thus clear that the Oregon fraud originated in New York.

THE action of the New York Chamber of Commerce in adopting a report urging that silver coin be made a standard legal tender throughout the United States, is a triumph of sound common sense over the muddy theorizing of the New York press, and should stimulate the Senate to take up and pass the House bill on that subject, or its equivalent, at an early day. The New York papers have induced Congress to believe that the sentiment of that city was against the Silver bill; but this action of her mercantile men is a strong proof to the contrary. The merchants, evidently, understand the matter better than the papers do.

SOME of the Eastern religious weeklies indulge in the unphilosophical speculation that the success of either Presidential candidate, in the present struggle, must be the ruin of his party, "No party," says one of these papers, "can survive the trials which must beset an administration which does not go into office with something more than mere legal right. We are not without suspicion that both parties are already demoralized and ruined beyond the possibility of recovery, and we should rejoice to see new and distinct issues made in the country, such as would permit serious and thoughtful men to take one side or the other with cordial conviction."

This is the kind of stuff that dreams are made of. Parties may be weakened, for a time, by the results of success, but no party was ever yet ruined by it. If there was any probability that the election of HAYES would ruin the Republican party, or that the inauguration of TILDEN would forever prostrate the Democratic party, we should, in the present case, as the New York *Post* observes, have Mr. MORTON and Mr. CONKLING trying to inveigle Mr. TILDEN into the Executive chair, and Mr. THURMAN and Mr. PAYNE maneuvering to shift the Presidency upon Mr. HAYES. There would be a lively interchange of good offices between the parties, each seeking to compliment the other with the possession of the Executive power and all its vast patronage, assured that long before the term of four years shall expire the unlucky incumbent, with all who adhere to his fortunes, will be precipitated into a hopeless minority. From the fact that no such actions are afoot it is fair to conclude that none of the party leaders feel any danger of ruin from success; and if the visionaries who indulge in such nonsense base their hopes of a new party upon no better foundation than this, they are sure to be disappointed. New parties do not spring out of the decay of old ones, nor do old ones decay through the attainment of a final triumph.

ACCORDING to the November report of the Bureau of Statistics, just issued, the merchandise imports of the United States during that month amounted to $30,470,466, against $36,896,343 for the corresponding month of 1875. This decrease, however, is partially set off by an increase of $4,670,000 in the month's imports of specie as compared with the preceding year. The exports of domestic products for the month, stated in mixed currency, amount to $62,107,827, compared with $59,730,388 in 1875, showing that the exports continue to exhibit the large gain apparent throughout the year. The total exports of specie and merchandise during the eleven months of the calendar year 1876 amounted to $417,873,674, against $493,295,621 for the corresponding period of 1875, a decrease of $75,421,947, or 15.29 per cent. The total exports for the eleven months, reduced to uniform gold value, amounted to $570,317,530, against $529,616,778 for the relating period of the preceding year, an increase of $40,700,752, a gain of 7½ per cent. A comparison of the imports and exports for these months, specie in each case included shows an excess of exports over imports amounting to $152,400,000, gold value, on the eleven months' trade. The New York *Bulletin* is of opinion that the complete year will show an excess of exports amounting to close upon $170,000,000. This condition of the trade balance, says that paper, is the most remarkable of anything that has ever occurred in the history of our foreign commerce. How far it differs from what we have been accustomed to may be inferred from the fact that, for years previous to 1873, the imports usually exceeded the exports by $60,000,000 to $120,000,000 per annum.

THE great fire which broke out on New Year's day in the Short Mountain and Lykens Valley coal mines, in Dauphin county, is still burning, and the damage already suffered is estimated at over three quarters of a million of dollars. The water from two streams flowing near the mines is conducted through wooden troughs to the several mouths of the mines, and it is thought the flames have been partially subdued, though it is impossible as yet to ascertain this with any degree of certainty, owing to the dense smoke with which the mines are filled. The greatest danger to be feared is that an underground draft will carry the flames to the Big Lick and Williamstown collieries, which are connected with the burning mines by subterranean passages. The Williamstown mine is the largest in the world, producing over 300,000 tons annually. It is feared that the damage already done will prevent further mining in the affected mines before spring, which would entail a vast amount of distress among the miners and their families.

THE JOURNALISTIC PAUL PRY.

The personal encounter, in New York, between BENNETT and MAY, and the results that have followed it, have given rise to a great deal of newspaper discussion, as well as to much local scandal.

And what, pray, was it all about? Was it a matter of public concern, that it should set a whole city by the ears? Not at all. It grew out of a marriage engagement and the failure of BENNETT to keep his plighted vows.

Now, in all well regulated communities, a marriage is a strictly private affair, in which none but the parties and their friends are interested. Marriages belong to the sanctities of private life, and are not in any way a matter of public concern. Public curiosity and inquisitiveness are frequently excited about the details of marriages; but, until the present generation, such things have been left to local tittle-tattle, and have been kept as scrupulously from the public as the other manifold details of domestic life.

But, of late years, it has grown into an evidence of newspaper "enterprise" to lay all these details before the world in the columns of the press. The same prying ingenuity which follows every public man into his bedchamber and insists upon knowing what he knows of and thinks about every imaginable public question, sticks its *Paul Pry* nose into the secret recesses of the family, and demands to know if the young lady of the house is not about to be married. Her age, height, size and general appearance; her eyes, hair and features; her jewelry, clothes and gaiters, are all minutely noted down; the day of the ceremony is given; the clergyman who is to perform it is also found out and described; the name, age character, description and appearance of the happy man are given in the amplest detail; and, finally, there follows a minute description of the bridal trousseau, with the name of the artists who made it and the cost of each article. This is now considered to be journalistic "enterprise," and the paper that will not thus lay open the secret places of every household into which it can get an entrance, is considered to be too "slow" to be longer tolerated.

The work of ASMODEUS, who lifted the roofs from the houses and laid bare, for the information of his companion, all the domestic life that was going on beneath them, was as nothing to this. The "Devil on two Sticks" was an adept in his way; but the modern press is ahead of him in revealing the secrets of the household to the public. There is no such thing as privacy in the retirement of home, any more. Not only are the roofs lifted up, but every door and window is thrown open, and the citizen who fancies his life is private, in reality lives open to the public eye. If what he does is thought worth knowing, the world is bound to know it, even down to the minutest item in the catalogue of his daily acts.

This publicity was given to MR. BENNETT'S engagement to Miss MAY. It was made as public as if the courting had been done in the eyes of the world. The people of New York knew all about it. They were told when Mr. BENNETT was to be married; then how the match was "off;" then how the reconciliation came about, and of the fixing of a second date for the wedding, and finally how Miss MAY sent to Paris for her trousseau, what it cost, what it was composed of, and how gorgeous it looked when it arrived and was displayed to the gaze of an eager throng of inquisitive people. Then the public was informed that BENNETT failed to come to time on the second engagement, and all this sickening stuff was recited in the public ear until Miss MAY was known all over the city as a jilted fair one, and her brother, maddened at the thought of such public knowledge, felt himself fairly driven into cowhiding BENNETT upon the open street.

If this matrimonial business of BENNETT'S had been kept private, as it should have been, and not blazoned before the world, there would have been nothing of this after catastrophe. The whole nasty and disgusting affair has grown out of this vile business of laying bare to the public the private life of households. It is time that we should get back to something like a wholesome appreciation of the sanctity that should surround every home, and which should shut out all possibility of intrusion from the prying eyes of newsmongers. There are some things which the public has no right to know, and the rigid observance of this fact by journalists must be insisted upon. MR. BENNETT'S paper, the New York *Herald*, was the first sinner in this respect, and has been persistent in its repetitions of the offense; but while this dulls our sympathy for him, in this instance, his case affords a splendid opportunity for urging an utter abandonment of this illegitimate system of journalism.

THE strike of the Tennessee coal miners, which embraced those of every mine in the State except three, operated by convict labor, has been ended by a general resumption of work on the part of the men. The rates for digging coal are hereafter to be, as they were in the past, three cents a bushel, with the difference that the pay is to be in cash, instead of goods at "company" prices. This is a material difference. The Knoxville *Tribune*, however, maintains that the result attained could have been as easily secured by a half hours' conference as by a strike that lasted nearly a month, creating no little distress among both producers and consumers.

AMONG the signs of improvement in the business world, not least important is the rise in the rate of interest in New York to seven per cent., implying, as it does, a renewed demand for the use of capital. Although the rate may fall back somewhat after the disbursement of the January dividends, it is generally believed that money will command better rates through the present year than its average since the beginning of 1874, and if this proves to be the case it will demonstrate that the profitable employment of capital is again returning to bless the land, and to give living wages to the laborer. The fool's paradise of three per cent. interest has been tried effectually, and to the prime disgust of the workingman.

THE Commissioners representing the French woolen industry at the Centennial Exhibition state, in their report to the Government, that the reason why French goods were not represented at Philadelphia was because that with our protective system American goods control the American market, under which circumstances France had nothing to gain by making an appearance in that department. They add, however, that they received assurances that our tariff would soon be overthrown or greatly modified, and that in view of that event no time should be lost in putting their goods before the American public once more. From whom did these assurances come? From MORRISON and other leaders of the Democratic party?

SHOULD it finally come to throwing out the electoral votes of States for alleged fraud, violence or irregularity, TILDEN would be in a worse box than ever. Bulldozed Mississippi and Alabama would take eighteen from the TILDEN column. Kentucky, which clearly did not elect according to the Constitution, in many places no electors being voted for, the vote, *viva voce*, being "for HAYES" or "for TILDEN," would lose twelve votes, while Arkansas, which wholly disregarded the law regulating the mode of returning the result to the Vice President, would lose six more votes. Thus TILDEN would lose thirty-six votes, to say nothing about the scattering electors that he would lose through the unpardoned disloyalty of his candidates. A number of witnesses will reach Washington this week from Mississippi, to give testimony as to the way the election was conducted in that State, and a deputy sergeant-at-arms has been started for Alabama for witnesses from that State. All of this class of evidence is taken by Senator MORTON'S committee. That Senator possesses apparently inexhaustible energy, and there is no fear but that the work of his committee will be thorough and complete.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR

Anecdotes of Vanderbilt are now in order.

Jerry Black is for "wah." Jerry is hot, but what is Tom's condition?

Fifteen hundred buffalo hunters are floundering in the snow on the northwestern frontier of Texas.

What wrong was that May-Bennett cowhiding meant to publish? The air is as full of rumors as the wind is of snow.

There is a corner in oysters in Philadelphia, and prices have advanced two hundred per cent. within the last few days.

Impecunious young Democratic lawyers should go to Oregon and assist Cronin to give a high moral tone to law and politics.

"A pint of milk taken before retiring at night will cover the scrawniest bones." Rather a slim covering for these winter nights.

Vanderbilt was the richest man this country has had, and it will be fortunate if the future generations leave to him that distinction.

The President of Costa Rica is a model Bourbon. He has abolished the press and placed every printing office under control of the Government.

Pen products. The number of hogs packed in Chicago since November 1 is 1,140,760, against 904,900 for the corresponding date last season.

Salem, Mass., comes to the front with the most remarkable case of kleptomania of the season. The fellow stole nineteen arctic soda water fountains.

The losses from detention by the ice blockade of merchandise intended for export from New York are estimated at one hundred thousand dollars.

The ladies' most sacred inner garment is now made of black silk foulard and trimmed with Mechlin lace. *Per contra*, shrouds are made of pink silk.

And now moveable heels have been invented for ladies shoes, so that a belle may at will proportion her height to that of the gentleman who happens to be her beau.

Shame. Boston has no place for the treatment of small-pox patients except at Gallop's Island, and a patient is said to be almost sure to die if conveyed there in the winter season.

During the last quarter of 1876, there arrived at the port of New York 19,903 immigrants, as compared with 15,667 for the corresponding period of 1875, a decrease of 1,764.

There are 1,074 vacant Presbyterian churches in the United States, and 1,799 have "stated supplies," so that nearly 3,000 out of a total of little over 5,000 churches are without pastors.

There is a ruinous theatrical stagnation in New York. Unemployed managers, actors and singers are numbered by the hundred. Many theaters are closing and combinations breaking up.

The quantity of ammunition and arms last week sent from Connecticut to Turkey is large enough to blow the entire Russian army to atoms, could it be properly placed for the effect of such a purpose.

Referring to the fact that buried cities have been found in the sands of the Gobi Desert, the New York *Mail* thinks the wonder is, how, for centuries, so many people could go by and not see them sooner.

Paris has steam cars that don't frighten the horses, seat forty persons, run ten miles an hour, can be stopped within five feet by a brake, turn sharp corners and cost but four dollars a day for fuel and attendance. Pittsburgh hasn't.

The ruins of the oldest settlement on the Upper James river were discovered a few days ago. They are supposed to be the remains of an old stone house or fort, which was erected by Colonel Thomas Stagg, near the Three Islands, in the year 1663.

Ice bound: There are some twenty-five vessels at Philadelphia loaded with grain and oil anxious to get to sea, and about twenty-five more at the breakwater with cargoes and in ballast anxious to get to the city, having been chartered to arrive.

Since the attempt first made by Philadelphia capitalists about a year ago to establish the dressed meat export trade, it has expanded so rapidly that from 1,200 to 1,500 carcasses are now shipped to England weekly from New York and Philadelphia.

The Brooklyn *Times* says that Vanderbilt got his start in life by pleasing a wealthy party whose horse he held for him at the hotel door. It does not follow, however, that holding horses is a good business, nor yet that fortunes come by waiting for them to extend an invitation.

The presentation of ancient Greek plays to the popular crowds which attend the English Crystal Palace have been remarkably successful and have awakened a great hunger for more of the same sort. The people have been amazed to find how modern, which is the same thing as saying how human, these old dramas are.

The total number of arrests in New York city for the year 1876 was 92,590. Of the persons arrested 68,003 were males and 24,596 females; 25,885 were charged with intoxication, 19,836 with disorderly conduct, 10,590 were drunk and disorderly, 6,349 were charged with assault and battery, 6,513 with larceny, 812 with burglary, 235 robbery, and 100 are classed under the head of homicide.

PERSONAL.

If it should turn out that the Tichborne claimant was right, and the real man, British justice may not be so proud of itself. New evidence to that effect, it is said, has been found in a letter written from Melbourne in 1854 by a Spaniard named Ramon Ortozegui to his friends in Bilboa, Spain, which letter was published in the Bilboa *Diario*.

Mr. George Kennen, one of the Siberian exploring party which started from San Francisco in 1865, in the course of a recent lecture at Buffalo, said that in remote parts of Siberia American newspapers and magazines are found occasionally, and that in one place he had seen a picture of General Dix, cut out of *Harper's Weekly*, framed, hung up on a wall and worshipped as a Roman saint!

Some Gloucester fishermen had a wonderful experience in the late gales. Twelve of the schooner's crew of thirteen were below, when the vessel capsized, the men being thrown to the ceiling, but almost instantly knocked back again. Rushing on deck they found the thirteenth man clinging to the rail, but the schooner's masts were gone, their breaking under water having saved the lives of the men.

Rev. Father Hanson (Uncle Tom) recently had a reception at Brighton, England, at which he related his experience. He narrated his interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and told how his Grace quietly passed to him a £50 note. At the close of his remarks an American in the audience asked him if had ever received any money from Mrs. Stowe, or the American or British publishers of the book of which he was the leading character. He said, emphatically, "Not a sixpence." The Archbishop asked Uncle Tom at what university he graduated His reply was, "The university of adversity."

On second thoughts, Boston seems to have pronounced against women as school directors. The experiment began with four in the School Board, all of them ladies of high social position and universally conceded capacity; but at the recent municipal election all the eight vacancies in the board were filled with men. Two of these vacancies were caused by the expiration of the terms of female members; but only one lady was put in nomination, and she was defeated. This was Miss Lucretia P. Hale, a sister of Rev. Edward E. Hale, and hardly less distinguished for literary talent than her gifted brother.

Just like them both. When the late General Bartlett had been several times wounded, he wrote to the lady whom he intended to marry releasing her from her engagement. She replied, "I'll marry you if there's enough left of your body to hold your soul."—*Springfield Republican*.

This story always was a pretty one. It was once told of Sir Thomas Trowbridge, who was badly wounded at the battle of the Alma, and his *fiancee*. It has also been related in regard to several French officers and their wives. It originated in the case of an English officer who was badly cut up during the war of 1812 and wrote home to release his sweetheart from her promise.

'A Quaint Old Pennsylvania Town."

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Under this heading there appeared an article in the COMMERCIAL of the 13th ult. The article pretended to be a description of Berlin, Somerset county, Pa., and written by some one, ficticiously calling himself "Quib." As the article was in every sense a quib—utterly misrepresenting one of the finest towns in Western Pennsylvania, I will, with your permission, give the readers of the COMMERCIAL *a true* description of our mountain town, prefacing the description with a brief sketch of the early history of the place—a history of frontier life a hundred years ago.

Berlin is one of the oldest towns in Western Pennsylvania. More than a hundred years ago, some ten or twelve families of German extraction, named Keffer, Glessner, Fisher, Hays, Leidersmith and Weighley, emigrated to this part of the country. Having a desire to locate a town on the highest point of land dividing the waters of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, they settled here, laid out a town and, in honor of their native land (Prussia), called it "Berlin."

The spot they had chosen for "a home" was yet in its primeval state—none but the foot of the wild beasts of the forest, or the foot of the yet wilder, more daring and more dangerous aborigines had ever trod the earth, or found shelter beneath the interlacing branches of those mighty monarchs of the forest that had stood the storms of ages, but were at last doomed to succumb to the pioneer's ax. It was not a land flowing with milk and honey; but, on the contrary, all nature, both animate and inanimate, had a tendency to make the stoutest heart despondent. The first settlers, however, had brought with them those characteristic German traits—industry, perseverence, and a firm faith in their God. Every foot of ground had to be redeemed with hard labor from the dense forest that covered the whole country; but one by one those monarchs bowed their stately heads, and soon what had but a short time before been nothing but a wilderness, was converted into waving fields of grain—the forest had given way to happy homes.

The oldest deed extant bears date March 18, 1779, for a tract of land called "Pine Spring," now Berlin. The tract was patented April 4, 1786.

The early settlers being of a peaceable disposition, the township in which Berlin is situated received the name of Bother's Valley. The founders of Berlin were necessitated to get whatever household utensils or farming implements they required from Chambersburg, a distance several years they were compelled to take their grain on pack-horses to a mill near Oldtown, Maryland, some forty miles, to have it ground. As early as 1788, John Hopkins, Robert Philson and John Fletcher, doing business in Berlin, were the only merchants in what is now Somerset county. Wagon roads being unknown; they had to have all their goods brought across the mountains to Berlin on pack-horses.

The most tragic event which ever occurred in Berlin, we must chronicle for the 25th day of December, 1793. Berlin was that day thrown into intense excitement by the murder of Jacob Glessner by Rev. Spoonemberg. Mr. Glessner was one of the early pioneers, an influential man and an officer in the Calvanistic or Reformed congregation, of which Rev. S. was minister.

The settlements of the county improving, especially Berlin, wagon roads took the place of pack-horses. In 1795 Somerset county was erected from part of Bedford county, and as Berlin was centrally located, an effort was made to have it selected as the county seat, but for some reason the Commissioners selected Brunnerstown (now Somerset), a small village which had but just sprung up.

At the breaking out of the war of 1812 Berlin furnished an infantry company, commanded by Captain Lehn, and a rifle company, commanded by Captain Peter Lane. Both entered the service, and resisted the crossing of the British army at Black Rock. William Knepper, one of our oldest citizens, is, to the writer's knowledge, the only survivor of that gallant band.

The turnpike, from Cumberland, Maryland, to West Newton, passing through Berlin, was commenced in 1833 and completed in 1842. In 1850 it was converted into a plank road.

In 1874 the Brother's Valley Railroad was surveyed and completed from Garrett, on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, to Berlin, and the same year telegraphic communication was established by the Company, and Robert Philson, Esq., appointed operator.

This much for the past history of Berlin, and now for a true description of Berlin at the present time and a slight analysis of Mr. Quib's "quib." Mr. Quib asserts that he had a distance of half a mile of a laundy road up a hill of forty-five degrees to walk, before he got to passable pavements. Mr. Q. must have been very tired, which made the distance so long. Certain it is, he had no more than an eighth of a mile to walk (and that up a graded road) before he came to pavements. But it is upon his arrival in town that Mr. Q. makes some obnoxious misrepresentations, commencing with the churches. His six churches come down to three fine brick structures, owned respectively by the Lutheran, Reformed and Methodist denominations. It will be seen from this that the Brethren, or Dunkards, who, by the way, rank among our most estimable citizens, are not the majority, and have not even a place of worship in town.

"It is rather a bleak, dreary place—so quiet that a dog fears to break the stillness with a bark—no lights after eight, and no one on the streets after ten. The inhabitants are mostly all farmers, owning farms in the suburbs." Had Mr. Q. said that nearly all were freeholders, instead of farmers, he would have come nearer the truth. Nearly every man owns from a quarter to half an acre lot, with a neat, comfortable dwelling house thereon.. This is "his farm," and this "he farms." He has bought it with his honestly earned dollars, and to him it is the dearest spot on earth. This he beautifies with flowers and shrubbery, and to this he hastens when the day's toil is over; this will account for the quiet which reigns on our streets after ten o'clock—a quiet on which we pride ourselves. Bacchanalian brawls and fights never make night hideous in Berlin. But if Mr. Quib saw no lights after eight o'clock, he must have acted on the sage advice of "early to bed," whilst sojourning amongst us. Had he at any time between eight and ten taken a leisurely stroll through the town, he would have seen lights and heard sounds of music and life that would speak volumes in favor of happy homes and light hearts.

To convince the readers of the COMMERCIAL that we are a community of artisans, instead of farmers, I will briefly mention the business houses and places of industry: S. Philson & Co., bankers; S. A. & J. C. Philson, Poorbaugh & Son, G. W. Bralier, Johnson & Son, D. A. Brubaker and E. J. Meyers, dealers in dry goods, &c.; Philson Brothers and J. Heffley & Son., merchant tailors; J. B. Walker and Floto & Cook, dealers in flour, feed, &c.; J. Doner, grocer; Daniel Hedley, druggist; Miss Amanda Musselman, milliner; G. W. Kissinger, shoe dealer, and Paul G. Nowag, shoe and leather dealer. Our artisans are summed up thus: One foundry, two tin shops, six shoe shops, five smith shops, three wagon manufactories, three sadler shops, three cabinet maker shops, two tan yards, one chair factory—making in all fifteen mercantile houses, one banking house and twenty-six places of industry. To a careful observer this would certainly not be evidence that nearly all are farmers, and that business is not all conducted in the line of barter, as Quib asserts. The very best proof we can give the readers of the COMMERCIAL that we are wide awake and that we have *some little money* is the fact that this immediate community surveyed, built and equipped a branch railroad, during the very hardest times of the panic, with *their own money*.

Not deigning it worth while noticing Quib's assertion that there has not been a building put up *for years*, more than to merely say that Berlin has made fully as much progress inside of the past three years as any small town in Western Pennsylvania, I will but briefly cite as proof, the fact that we are now putting up one of the finest school houses in the State. When finished it will be a building which would reflect credit on any community, and with which even Mr. Q. could not find any fault. The township is, and always has been Republican, and instead of giving Hayes nine majority, gave him about one hundred and fifteen; whereas Berlin is a Democratic stronghold, being Democratic by four to one, though the utmost harmony and good feeling prevail throughout on political questions.

Though the COMMERCIAL is a welcome daily visitor to quite a number of our citizens, yet it is not the only paper among its colleagues that make their daily appearance in Berlin. We get other dailies from Pittsburgh, New York, Baltimore and other points.

Berlin is a town of about nine hundred inhabitants, and about one hundred and seventy-five houses. Beautifully situated on the top of the Alleghenies, we have a fine, commanding view of the surrounding country. In and around town everything speaks of taste, refinement, thrift and industry. The following houses combine convenience with architectural beauty, quite a number of them being fine brick buildings which would grace some of our large cities. We have three fine three-story brick hotels, viz: the Bralier House, the National Hotel and the Mansion House. The morals of the community, as before implied, are good; and, situated as we are, breathing the pure air of heaven, untainted by contagion of any kind, Berlin offers a desirable refuge to any who wish to spend the summer in some quiet, sequestered nook. Any one spending a season amongst us will take pleasant recollections away, and will find that the same feeling which characterized the early settlers, and which gave to Brother's Valley its name, is still green in the hearts of our people. The only "quaintness" which characterizes the place is, that old-fashioned honesty prevails. In every other respect we are abreast with the times, and with any other place.

Only in his mention of our vast mineral deposits did Mr. Q. do us justice. The Creator has endowed us with a truly liberal hand. Our hills are all underlaid with coal, iron ore, fire clay, limestone, &c. With the building of the Brother's Valley Railroad, a better day has dawned for Berlin, and it needs but a revival of business throughout the land to make Berlin the Eldorado of Western Pennsylvania.

But I will let this suffice, feeling assured that I have said enough to convince the readers of the COMMERCIAL that Berlin is not the nondescript sort of a place which Mr. Quib would made them believe it to be. P. G. N.

DRY GOODS

1877.

Special In
DURI
At WILLIAM
165, 167 & 169 Fed

NEW SUITINGS.

At 12½c, Plaids and Knickerbocker Suitings.
At 10c, new desirable Dress Goods.
At 12½c, Wool Reyp Plaids, worth 22c.
At 12½c, Striped and Plaid Dress Goods, special bargains.

DRESS GOODS.

At 18¾c, newest colors in Alpaca Poplins.
At 20c, latest shade in double-fold Alpacas.
At 20c, Sicilian Basket Cloth Plaids.

ALPACAS, ETC.

At 13½c, Figured Alpacas, extra bargain.
At 25 to 50c, latest novelties in Brocades and a choice assortment of various Dress Fabrics.
At 50c up, very fine line new Dress Goods.

CASHMERES.

At 18¾ and 25c, fine Colored Cashmeres.
At 30, 33, 37½ and 50c, fine Black Cashmeres, extra bargains, worth from 37½ to 62½c.
At 62½ to 85 50, extra super Black Cashmeres. These Cashmeres will be found fully one-third less than usual prices.

DRESS SILKS.

At 85, 90c and $1, heavy Gros Grain Black Silks.
At $1 12½ and $1 25, extra heavy Black Dress Silks.
At $1 37½ and $1 50, special bargain just opened in superior Black Dress Silks.
At 75c, choice shades in Irish Poplins.

GREAT BARGAINS.

At $1, assorted shades of Brown Silks.
At $1 12½ to $2 50, choicest shades in Colored Silks.
Special bargains in Fancy Dress Silks.
Extra good value in our Mourning Goods Department.

NOTICE—Our 'Ladies' Jour
bright, new cuts, latest fashio

HOTELS.

IMPERIAL HOTEL,
The Only First-class Three-Dollar-per-Day Hotel in Washington.

In order to meet the wants of the Traveling Public, this First-class Hotel has reduced its price from Four to Three Dollars per day. The above Hotel is pleasantly located near Fourteenth street, fronting on Pennsylvania avenue, is convenient to the Treasury, Army, Navy, State, Postoffice and Interior Departments.

N. B.—Take the Pennsylvania Avenue Horse Cars, and tell the Conductor to let you off at the Imperial Hotel. JAMES S. PEIRCE, Proprietor.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,
(FORMERLY HARE'S HOTEL,)
No. 128 Liberty Street, Foot of Fifth Avenue.
TERMS $2 PER DAY.
HUGH KEYS, Proprietor.

CARPETS.

CARPETS!
DRUGGETS,
OIL CLOTHS,
MATTINGS,

As we near stock taking, we offer SPECIAL BARGAINS.

BOVARD, ROSE & CO.,
29 Fifth Avenue.

J. & H. PHILLIPS,
Manufacturers and Dealers in
Oil Cloths, Window Shades, &c.
GREEN SHADE CLOTH A SPECIALTY.
Also, Agents for the BOSTON BELTING CO.'S RUBBER BELTING HOSE, STEAM PACKING, &c.
Dealers in LEATHER BELTING, LACE, LEATHER and RUBBER BELTING, &c.
PAINTING, GRAINING and GLAZING.
NOS. 26 and 28 SIXTH STREET,
PITTS BURGH, PA.

DISSOLUTION.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP—THE partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, at Pittsburgh, under the names of E. W. McCLURE & CO. and McCLURE, FOX & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent. E. W. McCLURE retiring from the business, which will continue to be carried on by G. T. RAFFERTY, under the name of McCLURE & CO. The claims and accounts due by or to the late firm will be settled at No. 14 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, Pa. G. T. RAFFERTY. E. W. McCLURE.
G. T. RAFFERTY.

In retiring from the coke business, the undersigned asks for his succeeding partner the continuance of the patronage and favor which the late firm has enjoyed.

E. W. McCLURE.
Pittsburgh, Pa., January 1, 1877.

ALL GOODS
AT
Greatly Reduced Prices,
TO SUIT THE TIMES.

HOLIDAY GIFTS!

FINE PRESENTATION BOOKS,
FINE EDITIONS STANDARD AUTHORS,
BOOKS for CHILDREN,
FAMILY AND POCKET
BIBLES AND PRAYER BOOKS
IN FINE BINDINGS.
Elegant Photograph Albums, Writing Desks, Work Boxes and Library Inkstands, Fine Gold Pens and Pencils, Fine Note Papers and Stationery, Pearl Card Cases, Pencils and Paper Knives, Japanese Goods, Fine Diaries for 1877.

Jas. B. Dodge & Bro.,
127 Fifth Avenue,
between Smithfield and Grant streets.
Open in the evening until 10 P. M.

1876 Christmas 1876
—OF—
With the return of the season, I would most respectfully ask you to call and examine my large stock of goods suitable for Holiday Presents
In Engravings the line has never been excelled, and in Photographs, Chromos, Water Colors and Lithographs, I have a full and complete stock.
In the Department of Frames, to which special attention has always been given, will be found a large and varied assortment which, for superiority of manufacture and artistic design, cannot be excelled.
W. W. BARKER,
125 FIFTH AVENUE,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

JAMES ANGLIM,
PUBLISHER OF
LANMAN'S
Biographical Annals
AND DEALER IN
RARE, OLD & CURIOUS BOOKS
F Street, near the Treasury,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Books bought in large or small quantities.
Law Books, Early American History, Valuable Government Publications, and Standard Works on all subjects receive special attention.

Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company.
59 FOURTH AVENUE.
ASSETS $ 40,443,395.98.
SURPLUS $ 3,916,531.48
DIVIDEND EDRI 1874 $3,037,872.93. RATIO EXPENSE TO INCOME 37 PER CT.
S. S. CARRIER, Gen'l Agent.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,
Advertising Agents,
37 Park Row, New York,
Desire to Call the Attention of Business Men, who wish to reach the Reading Public, to the following
FACTS:
1. They have been in the Advertising business for nearly thirty years, and given it constant attention and study during that time.
2. They have had, and continue to have, cordial business relations with all the newspapers and other publications in the United States and Canada.
3. Their record with all these publications is one of fair treatment, honorable dealing and prompt settlements.
4. In consequence of this, they can always have advertisements inserted at the publisher's *lowest rates*.
5. They are so acquainted with the entire press of the country that they can select the *best mediums* or any given purpose.
6. Having done advertising for all kinds of business, and noted the results to their customers, they suggest valuable suggestions as to the *size, style and position* which will make the most effective advertisement for the object to be attained.
7. Having frequent occasion for a large number of papers, they can, in most cases, get the work done for *less cost* than the advertiser would have to pay if he sent the order direct.
8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation of the order, and submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.
9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of their supervision *without charge*, a commissions being paid by the publishers.
10. They submit estimates for any given list of papers, or for *property* selecting any given district.
11. For a systematic working up of any large enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.
They invite a call from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.
S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park Row, New York.
701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia.
10 State Street, Boston.

NATIONAL
INSURANCE CO.,
43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.
W. W. MARTIN.....President.
JAM TEVENSON.....Secreta

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.
CHARTERED IN 1862.
BOARD OF MANAGERS.—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents. A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Rahm, G. Follansbee, Robert Garrett, Sam'l Murphy.
Chas. G. Milner, Secretary and Treasurer.
SOLICITOR—John H. Bailey.

DRY GOODS:
1877. 1877.
JANUARY.
Greatly Reduced
PRICES.
MEDIUM AND FINE
Dress Goods!
Ladies' Cloth Cloaks!
LATEST DESIGNS.
CHOICE ASSORTMENT
Fine Furs!
Extra Good Bargains will be offered in all the above Goods.
James Caldwell & Co.,
No. 115 and 117
FEDERAL ST.,
ALLEGHENY.

PATENTS.
Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult F. A. LEHMANN, or Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and F streets, or 23 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh
Send for circular

LEAKY ROOFS
Made Perfectly Water Tight with one coat of Gray's Elastic Roofing Paint. 84 DIAMOND STREET.

DRY GOODS!
SATURDAY,
ducements to
NG THE MON
SEMPLE'S,
eral St, Allegheny.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We invite the particular attention of our friends and patrons to the following special inducements in Ladies' Cloaks and Sacques.

NEW SACQUES.

At $1 50, Ladies' Beaver Cloth Sacques.
At $2, Ladies' heavy Beaver Cloth Sacques.
At $2 50, Ladies' extra heavy Beaver Cloth Sacques.

LONG SACQUES.

At $3, Ladies' Diagonal Long Cloth Sacques.
At $4 50, Ladies' Diagonal Long Cloth Sacques, fur-trimmed.

NEW SACQUES.

At $5 and $5 50, Ladies' Matalasse extra long Cloth Sacques.
At $6, Ladies' Beaver Fur-trimmed Sacques.
At $5, Ladies' Chinchilla extra long Sacques.

FUR-TRIMMED.

At $8, Ladies' All Wool Basket Cloth Fur-trimmed Sacques.
An examination of these goods and prices will need no further comment.

NEW CLOAKS.

New Cloaks, Sacques and Wraps still arriving daily.

FURS! FURS! FURS!

We also take special pleasure in inviting attention to this department, as it is unusually full and complete in all the different varieties for

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, January 8, 1877.

Affairs in financial circles were quiet today, the principal events of interest being the elections of insurance and bank directors which are taking place to-day and to-morrow. These elections generally passed off quietly and were conducted in the usual routine way, and their result is given in our local columns. The money market was quiet and easy as usual at the regular rates, 7@8 per cent. on prime commercial paper at the banks; 6@7 on prime collateals; street rates 8@11 per cent. The additions to the dividend list consist of a 5 per cent. semi-annual dividend of the Second National Bank, Allegheny; Boatmen's Insurance Company $2 per share, to be credited on stock rates; Allemania Insurance Company $2 50 per share, payable January 12th; Pittsburgh Gas Company $1 per share, payable January 12th. This makes fifty-five dividends declared by Pittsburgh stock companies in the first six business days of the year, which is by no means a bad beginning.

—A review of the Western iron trade for 1876 shows that the price of grey forge pig iron has declined about $1 00 per ton, and that there has been a gradual and almost imperceptible downward tendency throughout the year, with slight recoveries in January and at the close of May. The stocks of pig iron have been materially reduced, that in this city being 19,500 tons less on January 1, 1877, than on January 1, 1876. There are now sixty-nine furnaces in blast west of the Alleghenies, against seventy-seven a year ago. The bar iron market has been characterized by marked fluctuations in consequence of the efforts of the associated manufacturers to sustain the price at a profitable level. The year closed with the market price about where it opened, so far as nominal quotations are concerned, but the cutting of rates is now hardly carried on to so ruinous an extent as then. The nail trade is the only branch of the general iron business which has been wholly satisfactory. In that trade prices have been well sustained at the level fixed upon at the organization of the Western Nail Association on April 7th, 1875. Prices for ore have not changed much, although there was a nominal decline early in the year of 50c per ton on Lake Superior grades. The shipments of ore were 128,000 tons in excess of those for 1875. The moral of all the figures and facts in connection with the iron trade of 1876 is the necessity of cheaper production and the seeking of South American and other foreign markets for our surplus production of finished iron.

—In New York it is the more general custom than here for merchants to make their notes and accep ance payable at bank, and have them all charged in through clearing house settlements. In such cases the bills paid are charged to the depositor's account the same as if they were drawn by him, and are duly returned to him at the end of the month, when his cash book is regularly balanced. The practice is a good one, and could with advantage be generally followed. But where the custom is to be followed, there is one thing that should be duly impressed upon the depositor who wishes his note paid through any particular bank. He should at the opening of each month leave with his bank a carefully prepared list of the paper he wishes to be protected—a list giving all the dates and amounts. It will not do for him simply to instruct his bank to pay all the paper of his which is presented as long as his account is good. Such a course would be open to many risks.

—The *Shipping List* says: In the six years which have elapsed since the census of 1870, the property valuation of the towns and cities of the United States have increased twenty-five per cent., and in the same time the annual taxation in the same towns and cities has increased one hundred and ten per cent. In the same time, also, the indebtedness of the same towns and cities has been augmented by two thousand per cent., or twenty times the principal of six years ago. Herein lies the secret of most of the embarrassment which oppresses the country. That the beginning of the year is a good time for the people to cry a determined halt in the ruinously impoverishing system of creating municipal credit to sit sars of projects, visionary and otherwise.

—The statement of the condition of the State banks of New York city on the 231 ult., shows a net reduction of capital amounting to $346 000 compared with the exhibit of September 23d. The Manufacturers' and Mechanics' is reduced from $500,000 to $100 000; the Commercial is increased from $933,000 to $100,000, and the Brewers and Grocers' (a new bank) is organized with a capital of $100,000.

By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 106⅛

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 8.—Money @3⁷ per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@7 per cent. Customs receipts $20,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $351,000. Clearings $23 000,000. Sterling steady at 484@486.

GOLD.

Gold week, opening at 106⅝ and closing at 106⅞. Carrying rates 2 per cent. and 7 per cent. Silver in London 57½ pence per ounce; here bar silver is 131¾ per ounce bid to grey backs and 123¾ bid in gold; silver coin 123¾ bid.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds active and lower. Railroad bonds firm. State securities quiet. Stocks generally dull and weak with the exception of Rock Island, which was strong and higher. Wabash and Mississippi and Illinois Central were unusually active, the latter fluctuating between 58½ and 60½, closing at 60; New York Central and Lake Shore were lower on various rumors in regard to the position in which Commodore Vanderbilt had left his holdings of these securities. Transactions aggregated only 70,000 shares, of which 13,000 were Western Union, 4,700 St. Paul, 16,000 Lake Shore, 5 000 New York Central, 7,000 Ohio and Mississippi, 9,500 Michigan Central, 4,000 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western and 5,000 Illinois Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

West. Union Tel..	97	N. Y. Central.....	96
Quicksilver.....	14½	Rock Island.....	101¼
Do. preferred....	29¼	St. Paul.....	29¼
Pacific Mail.....	25½	Do. preferred....	58¼
Mariposa.....	6½	Toledo & Wabash..	9½
Do. preferred....	19½	Ft. Wayne.....	100½
Adams Express..	106¾	Terre Haute.....	5½
Wells-Fargo Ex..	84	Do. preferred....	15
American Ex....	57½	Chicago & Alton..	90
United States Ex..	50	Do. preferred....	100
New York Central	96¾	Ohio & Mississippi	25⅞
Erie.....	9⅞	Del. & Lack.....	75½
Do. preferred....	17¾	Atlantic & P. Tel..	3¾
Harlem.....	130	Missouri Pacific...	9¼
Do. preferred....	133	Atlantic & P. pref.	23
Michigan Central..	80	Illinois Central...	60
Panama	125	Bur. & Quincy....	117½
Lake Shore*.....	84¾	Hannibal & St. Joe.	19¾
Illinois Central..	58½	Do. preferred....	30
Cleve. and Ptts..	89¾	Central Pac. bds..	105¾
Northwestern....	36¾	Union Pac. bds...	103¾
Do. preferred....	56¾	Do. land grants..	103¾
C., C., C. & I.....	37	Do. S. F. bonds..	90¾

*Ex-dividend.

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	113¾	New 5s.....	111¼
5-20's, 1865.....	106¾	New 4½'s.....	103½
5-20's, 1865, new....	109½	10-40's, registered.	112¾
5-20's, 1867.....	112¾	10-40's, coupons..	112¾
5-20's, 1868.....	114¼	Currency 6's.....	122¾

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old.....	43¼	Virginia, old.....	39
Tennessee, new....	33	Missouri 6's.....	104½
Virginia, new.....	38		

LONDON, January 8, 5 P. M.—The amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance to-day is £249,000. Consols 94 11-16. United States bonds—5-20's, 1865, 105½; do 1867, 108¾; 10-40's, 102; new 5's, 107. Railroad securities—New York Central 99; Erie 9¾; preferred 18.

PARIS, January 8.—Rentes 105 francs 15 centimes.

FRANKFORT, January 8 - United States bonds—New 5's 102¾.

NEW ORLEANS, January 8 —Gold 107. Sight exchange on New York ¼ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 514.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, January 8, 1877.

With regard to market values we have little new to give the reader. There have been no quotable changes in prices since our last report, nor has there been any discernable improvement in the volume of trade. The indications of a thaw which were observable on Friday and Saturday awakened a hope that there would soon be a resumption of river navigation; which it was believed would have a salutary effect on trade. But from present appearances King Ice will "hold the fort" for some time to come.

Owing to the disagreeable, not to say dangerous, situation of the streets and sidewalks few pedestrians ventured forth, and those who did, if bent on making purchases, bought no more than sufficient for their immediate wants. In view of all surrounding circumstances, the wonder is that business shows the degree of life that it does.

There are fears among our merchants that the late fall of snow will again interfere with the prompt reception of goods and wares by rail. But we understand that the officers of the various roads centering in this city have taken all proper precautions to keep the tracks clear of snow and in running order, even though it takes an army of workmen.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls.....	1,500	Corn, bus.....	2,487
Wheat, bus.....	530	Oats, bus.....	980
Butter, pkgs.....	80	Bacon, pcs.....	700
Hay, tales.....	31	Hogs, No.....	1,200

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—There is not a shadow of change in the grain market to-day. The receipts continue light, though fully equal to the demand. We do not alter our figures, and quote as follows: Prime red wheat $1 @@1 ¤ bushel; prime amber $1 45@1 45; prime white $1 45@1 50. Corn is firm to new car, owing to light receipts; prices are steady, as follows: Ear shelled 52@53c ¤ bushel; for prime yellow and high mixed new; 47@48c prime new shelled 51@53c. Oats are in good supply, but no lower; the demand is moderate and business is steady at 40@41c ¤ bushel for prime white; mixed 38@39c. Rye is quoted at 72@75c. Barley quiet at 85c for choice; 75@80c for good to prime spring; prime fall $1 00; low grades 60c; market dull; jobbing sales at the customary advance.

FLOUR—Receipts fair and prices unchanged. The market is reported fairly active with tendency upwards. We quote No. 1 white wheat flour at $6 00 ¤ barrel; No. 1 amber do at $5 75; prime red wheat flour $5 50; in sacks 25c less ¤ barrel; Wisconsin $5 50@6 75; Minnesota $7 00@7 25; fancy St. Louis $8 00@9 00; Indiana $6 50@7 25; fancy Ohio $7 00@8 00; Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania $6 50@7 25; family $5 50@6 00; commeal 70c ¤ bushel; oatmeal $7 50@8 00 ¤ barrel; kegs $1 00@1 50; rye flour $4 25@4 50 ¤ barrel.

HAY—The receipts are in excess of the demand so far as loose from sled and wagon are concerned; the receipts of baled, on the other hand are light. The market is quiet at the following quotations: Wagon $12 00@14 00 ¤ ton; No. 1 timothy $13 00@15 00; No. 2 timothy $ 1 00@13 00 from first hands baled. Prairie—Upland $10 00@12 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

MILL FEED—Is steady at the following rates: Bran $12 50@13 00 ¤ ton; middlings $20 00@22 00; seconds and shipstuffs $15 00@17 00; chapped feed $20 00@22 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—The supply of choice apples is short of the demand, which causes the market to rule firm at an advance for extra, nice sound varieties. We quote as follows: Extra, unfrosted, $1 50@1 75 ¤ barrel; good $1 25@1 40; common dull sale at 75c@$1 00.

APPLES—Receipts light and prices firm at the following quotations: Prime $1 25@1 50 ¤ bbl; common dull sale at 75c@$1 10 ¤ bbl.

APPLE BUTTER—Is held at 40@45c ¤ gallon.

BEESWAX—Is quoted at 28@30 ¤ lb.

BEANS—Are in fair demand at $1 90@2 00 for prime white navy.

DRIED CORN—Prices unchanged. Choice hurd 6@7c, as to quality; brush thin; will work up 5@6c; medium green 4@5c; red-topped 3@4c; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at about 33 per cent. off the prices given, as to quality.

BUTTER—Prime butter is scarce and in good demand. We quote as follows: Choice creamery rolls 28@30c; prime to choice solid packed 16@19c; do roll 20@22c; choice dairy rolls 24@26c.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Is moderately active and steady. Prime quality we quote at $3 75@4 00 ¤ cwt.; $2 25@2 50 ¤ bbl.

CHEESE—We quote prime Ohio factory at 14@15c; do in round lots; jobbing at 15¾@16c. New York Goshen 16c in round lots; 15½@16c in a jobbing way. Young American 18c; nutmeg 17c.

CRANBERRIES—The supply is sufficient and price remain at $8 00@9 00 ¤ bbl; $3 25@3 50 ¤ bushel.

CIDER—Prices range from $3 50@4 50, barrel included, for common; $4 00@5 00 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUITS—Dull and prices as previously given. We quote dried apples nominal at 4½@5c ¤ lb for prime, and 5½@6c for fancy; dried peaches 14@15c; evaporated peaches 25c.

DRIED PEAS—There is a good demand for new crop at $1 50@1 75 ¤ bushel.

SEEDS—There is as yet but little inquiry. The asking rates from store are: Cloverseed $9 00@9 25 ¤ bushel or 62 lbs; timothy seed $1 60@2 15. HEMP—Supply moderate, with a good demand at unchanged prices. We quote: Strictly prime $7 50@8 00 ¤ dozen, and scarce; pickled are plenty at 22@23c, and not fancied.

FEATHERS—Choice are quoted at 62@65c in wholesale lots; lower qualities 50@60c.

POTTERY—Is in better supply, and prices range from 30c ¤ ¤ up to 1c. Dressed chickens sell for 11@12c ¤ ¤. The market is reported dull. We quote live turkeys at 75@$1 00 each; dressed 12@13c ¤ ¤. Dressed chickens 11@12c ¤ ¤; live chickens in coop 42@45c ¤ pair. Ducks, live, 80@90c ¤ pair; dressed 10@ 13c ¤ ¤. Geese 50@60c each.

POTATOES—Prices are firm. We quote: Prime peachblows, Burbanks, etc., $1 20@1 50 ¤ bushel; lower grades $1 10@1 20.

VINEGAR—There is a moderate demand at 17 @20c ¤ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for best city make.

Provisions.

BACON—The receipts of bulkmeats foot up only 700 pieces. We quote as follows: Shoulders 8c ¤ ¤; short rib sides 9¾c; clear sides 10@ 10½c.

CUT AND CURED MEATS—Hams are firm at 12¾c ¤ ¤ for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon rules easy, and we quote sugar-cured at 13½c. Sugar-cured shoulders are steady at 9c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 14½c. Beef tongues, per dozen, are quoted at 90@95c.

LARD—Following are the ruling quotations: Kettle rendered, 12c; 14 pound pails, 12½c. Refined lard—Tierces 12¼@12½c; 50-lb tins 12¾c; 20-lb pails 13c; 10-lb do, 13½c; 5-lb do, 14c; 3-lb do, 14½c; 1¼c in tierces.

SALT-LARD—Market quiet at the following quotations: Extra winter strained 95@98c ¤ gal; No. 1, 76@78c; No. 2, 60@62c.

MESS PORK—Is steady at the following rates: Bran 412 5s@13 00 ¤ ton; middlings $20 00@22 00; seconds and shipstuffs $15 00@17 00; chapped feed $20 00@22 00.

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HIDES AND LEATHER—We give the following as the ruling quotations:

Leather

Oak sole, country ¤ lb.....	$	30@ 31
Oak sole, city.....		36@ 38
Red sole, Buenos Ayres heavy.....		29@ 32
Red sole, Buenos Ayres mid.....		28@ 30
Red sole, Ormocoa and Cala. heavy..		29@ 31
Red sole, Ormoco and Cala. mid....		28@ 31
Red sole, good damaged.....		25@ 28
Oak, rough.....		24@ 27
Harness, city oak.....		31@ 37
Harness, country.....		29@ 32
Harness, No. 2 and common.....		26@ 28
Collar, oak sides, ¤ foot.....		12@ 17
Fair skirting ¤ lb.....		37@ 40
Fair bridle, ¤ doz.....		54 00@66 00
Belt leather ¤ lb.....		39@ 41
Finished calf.....		90@$1 20
Finished upper, ¤ foot.....		16@ 20
Finished kips ¤ lb.....		50@ 90

Hides.

Green salted cows.....	8	@ 8¼
Green salted steers, light.....	8	@ 8¼
Green salted steers, heavy.....	9	@ 9¼
Green salted calf.....	12	@ 13
Green butcher cows.....	5	@5¼
Green butcher steers, light.....		6
Green butcher steers, heavy.....		7
Green butcher calf.....		10

HEMP—The demand is active at $150 00 for Kentucky rough.

RAGS—The market is steady. We quote cotton mixed 2¼@2½c ¤ lb; and woolen 5c.

STOVE POLISH—Sales made at $5 75 ¤ gross.

SAPOLIO—Cases of 6 dozen, $5 00; hand sapoli, cases of 6 dozen, $5 00.

SALT—The market is steady and unchanged. No 1 sells in car lots at $1 00 per barrel. We quote jobbing prices as at $1 15 ¤ bbl for No. 1; $1 25 for extra do; $1 40 for dairy. Liverpool salt repacked in large sacks of 220 lbs, $2 00@2 10 per sack; dairy salt in small sacks $3 25@3 50 ¤ bbl.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Union Drove Yards, Allegheny.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, January 8, 1877.

ARRIVALS OF STOCK.

Below we give the number of cattle received by the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway and Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad with names of the consignee and point of shipment:

PITTSBURGH, FORT WAYNE AND CHICAGO RAILWAY.

Consignee.	Where from.	Head.
Gorton & Z.....	Chicago.....	31
Rick & Moonschine..	Chicago.....	37
I. Shamburg.....	Chicago.....	35
S. B. Twitman.....	Chicago.....	11
Marks & Bro.....	Chicago.....	18
Marks & Rose.....	Chicago.....	17
Arnold & A.....	Chicago.....	20
E. Katz.....	Bucyrus.....	1
N. Hirsch.....	Upper Sandusky....	11

CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH RAILROAD.

L. Holderman.....	Zanesville.....	3
V. Uckens.....	Bellaire.....	1
D. M. Daines.....	Canal Dover, 1 car mixed	
Total.....		161

CATTLE.

In addition to the above, there were a number brought in from East Liberty, and a few driven in from the surrounding country, which would swell the total to about 350 head. As usual, the offerings were comprised "all sorts," good, bad and indifferent. The weather was decidedly uncomfortable, both overhead and underfoot, and consequently were made in door, "rain in, rain out." The market was generally quiet and lifeless, and the offerings will remain unsold. Following are the ruling quotations:

Choice, 1,350 to 1,500 lbs.....	$5 60@5 75
Choice, 1,150 to 1,350 lbs.....	5 50@5 75
Good, 1,200 to 1,350 lbs.....	5 00@5 25
Fair, 1,050 to 1,200 lbs.....	4 50@4 75
Medium, 900 to 1,000 lbs.....	3 75@4 00
Bulls and stags.....	2 00@3 00
Milch cows, with calves.....	30 00@60 00

HOGS.

There was a bountiful supply of fair to good hogs in the pens, and the market showed signs of increased inactivity. F. Hector & Co. up to noon had disposed of about 500 head at $5 50@7 50. Other dealers effected sales at similar rates. Following are the ruling quotations:

Extra heavy hogs.....	$7 00@7 50
Good butcher.....	6 75@6 90
Medium to fair.....	6 25@6 50
Roughs.....	5 75@6 00

SHEEP.

There were some good head offered to day, and all would not be sold. The market was not an active one, though prices were fully as good as last week. Some fifteen loads, 1,500 head in all, changed hands at $4 00@5 00. We quote as follows:

Choice, 100 to 120 lbs.....	$5 50@5 75
Choice 80 to 90 lbs.....	4 50@5 00
Good, 75 to 80 lbs.....	3 75@4 00
Common and medium.....	3 00@3 25

Mess Pork—Steady at the advanced rates: $18 50@19 00 ¤ bbl. Hams—Sales of the advanced rates: $18 50@19 00 ¤ bbl. Hams—Sales of sugar-cured hams at 12½@13c ¤ lb; canvassed hams at 14½@15c per lb. Pork dull at $8 50@8 75. Lard dull at 12½@12¾c ¤ lb; refined do at 12¾@13c ¤ lb. Bulk meats—Sales of shoulders at 8½@8¾c; clear rib 9¾@9¾c; clear sides at 10¾@10¾c. Bacon—Sales of shoulders at 9¾@9¾c; short clear 9¾@ 10c; clear sides at 11¾@11¾c. Beef quiet; new mess $10 00@10 50; extra mess $9 00@9 50; packet $8 50@9 00; family $11 00@11 50; extra family $12 00@12 50. Pickled pigs' feet quiet at $1 75@2 00 ¤ bbl. Tallow dull at 6½@6¾c ¤ lb. Stearine quiet at 10½@10¾c ¤ lb. Oleine quiet at 9¾@10c ¤ lb. Lard oil quiet at 90@95c ¤ gal. Butter quiet; Western reserve 28@30c; fancy do 32@33c; choice do 25@27c; fair to good do 20@22c; Western creamery 28@32c; Elgin 33@34c; Western extra 25@27c; do firsts 23@25c. Cheese 13¾@14c. Eggs—Western fresh 30@32c.

BALTIMORE, January 8.—Flour firm; superfine $4 75@5 50; extra $5 50@6 25; family $6 00@ 6 75. Wheat dull; No. 2 Chicago $1 35@ 1 38. Corn—Old Western mixed 58c; new 58½c. Oats unchanged. Rye nominally 77@78c. Cloverseed dull at 14½@15c per lb. Pork dull at $18 50@18 75. Hams 14@15½c. Lard dull at 13½@13¾c. Butter firm at 22@30c. Eggs steady at $1 40. Coffee quiet; Rio 19@22½c; jobbing at 19@23½c.

LOUISVILLE, January 8.—Cotton firm at 15½c. Flour—Extra $4 75@5 50; family $5 50@5 75. Corn steady at 46c; eye quiet and nominal. Oats firm; white 40c; mixed 37c. Pork firm at $18 00. Bulkmeats quiet at 6¾@6¾c; clear sides 9¾@ 9¾c. Bacon dull and nominal. Lard dull; tierces 12@12¼c; keg 13c. Whisky firm at $1 07.

NEW ORLEANS, January 8.—Flour firm; double extra $7 00@7 25; treble do $7 50@7 90. Lard dull; tierce 12¾@12¾c; keg 12¾@12¾c. Sugar firm; inferior 5¾@6¾c; centrifugal 8@8 9-16c. Molasses dull; centrifugal 29@45c; common 33@37c; fair 38@40c; prime 43@45c. Others unchanged.

MILWAUKEE, January 8.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat opened and closed firm; No. 1 Milwaukee $1 38; No. 2, $1 28; No. 3, $1 17. Corn firm; No. 2 44½c. Oats higher; No. 2, 33½@ 33¾c. Rye quiet; No. 1, 74½c. Barley dull; No. 2 spring, January, 84c. No. 3, 69c.

TOLEDO, January 8.—Flour steady. Wheat steady; No. 2 white Wabash $1 29; extra white Michigan $1 46; amber, spot and seller January, $1 43. Corn steady; new high mixed, 45½; rejected 43c. Oats dull; white 38c; rejected 29c.

LIVERPOOL, January 8.—California white wheat average 10s 11d @11s 1d; do club 11s 2d @11s 7d; red Western spring, Nos. 2 to 1, 10s 9d; winter 10s 1d@10s 8d. Flour 24s@28s. Corn 26s 3s. Pork 71s.

MEMPHIS, January 8.—Cotton stronger at 12¾c. Flour firm; choice family $8 25@8 50. Mixed corn 60@62c. Lard dull; tierce 12¾c; keg 13c. Others unchanged.

BOSTON, January 8.—Flour—Demand steady. Corn quiet but steady; mixed yellow, new, 60@63c. Oats firm; No. 1 white 68c.

OSWEGO, January 8.—Wheat steady; No. 1 Milwaukee club $1 35; No. 2 $1 45. Corn unchanged.

Dry Goods.

NEW YORK, January 8.—Business was moderate with commission houses, and jobbing trade continued dull. Cotton goods firmly held by agents. Great Falls E. brown sheetings advanced to 8¾c. Prints in fair request and firm. Men's wear woolens in moderate demand. Foreign goods quiet.

Cotton.

NEW YORK, January 8.—Cotton firm at 13¾ @13 9-16c. Futures closed steady; January 13 5-16 @13 13-32c; February 13 15-32@13⅜c; March 13 25-32c; April 13 15-16@13 29-32c.

LIVERPOOL, January 8.—Cotton stronger and buoyant at 7¼@7 5-16d. Sales of 10,000 bales, including 10,000 for speculation and export and 11,000 American.

ST. LOUIS.—The City Comptroller opened the bids for the E. G. Smith, but didn't sell her; as there was only one bid, and that wouldn't pay for her engines.

At an election for directors of the Missouri River Packet Company, the following were chosen: E. W. Gould, C. S. Rogers, Wm. J. Lewis and W. W. Ater.

MR. James Barnard, agent for the underwriters, says: If the ice should go with an eight or ten days' thaw, there would be considerable trouble; but if with a rise, there would be a terrible smash up. I think the Ferry Company, Commodore Davydson and others will unite, and have the ice broken up from Carondelet to the bridge. This, I believe, would save the boats. It is the first start that always does the damage. Ice from above the bridge would produce no harm.

THE mails carried over the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad are hauled to Huntington over the river on sleds.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, UNITED STATES SIGNAL SERVICE, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 8, 1877.

The following is the daily report of the stage of water, with changes in the twenty-four hours ending at 3 P. M.:

STATIONS.	ABOVE L'W W's.		CHANGE IN — OR !		DIRECTION OF WIND.	STATE OF WEATHER.
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.		
Cairo.....	6	2	+0	1	N. W	Clear.
Cincinnati.....	10	8	!	3	N. W.	Cloudy.
Memphis.....	2	11	+0	3	N. W.	Clear.
Nashville.....	6	6	+3	6	N. W.	Fair.
Shreveport.....	5	11	+0	2	N. W.	Clear.
St. Louis.....	11	0	—0	3	N. W.	Clear.
Vicksburg.....	2	2	+0	1	N.	Clear.

Receipts of Metal, Ore, Etc.

	Met'l Ore, tons.	Sc'p tons.	Bims. tons.
Pitts. Ft. W. & C. R'y...	320	24	.....
Cleveland & Pgh. R. R.	70	120	.....
Pennsylvania R. R....	110	.....	12
A. V. R. R.....	24	.....	.....
Total.....	524	144	12

SPECIAL RIVER DISPATCHES.

BROWNSVILLE, PA., January 8, 1877. River 4 feet 6 inches and stationary. Weather cloudy; mercury 17 at 7 P. M.

MORGANTOWN, W. VA., January 8, 1877. River closed. Weather cloudy; mercury 20.

GREENSBORO, PA., January 8, 1877. River frozen over. Weather cloudy and cold.

IRONTON, O., January 8, 1877. River rising. The ice moved this morning at three o'clock, breaking loose the barges belonging to the Middleport Transportation Company, staving in the end of one and sinking it. The ice moved about three hundred yards and stopped. It moved again at 3:50 P. M., run one hour and stopped. There was no other damage so far as heard from. Guyandotte river is reported rising fast. Ice is reported passing Huntington, Cattlesburg and Ashland at the present time. The coke boats at the different furnaces are all safe at present. The Kanawha and Sandy rivers are rising; a 4 foot rise is reported in the latter.

MIDDLEPORT, O., January 8, 1877. River 8 feet and rising, having risen 3 feet in the past twenty-four hours. The J. C. Grosley, J. S. Neil and Kanawha broke the ice from the foot of the pier to the foot of Mill street this afternoon. The Three Lights, Wall City, Humming Bird and New Castle have steam up in anticipation of a break-up soon. Three inches of snow fell this morning. Weather cloudy and growing cold.

For Additional Dispatches see Fourth Page.

RIVER NEWS.

THE weather yesterday was considerably mixed. We had rain, snow, and a thaw. Take your choice. The rivermen are waiting patiently for something to turn up. How long they will have to wait is further along.

THE river at Cairo is running full of heavy ice.

NAVIGATION at this point has been closed since the 5th of December.

THE coal men have made every arrange ment necessary to protect their interests when the break up comes.

NAVIGATION above Little Rock is suspended The following boats are at the wharf all laid up waiting a change in the river: The Fleetwing, Shaffer, Granger, General Wiles and Katie Cross.

MR. THOMAS P. JACK, an old steamboat joiner, died at his residence in Covington, Ky., Thursday evening, at six o'clock, of spinal disease. He was about sixty-three years of age.

THE Valley Barge Company, of St. Louis, has closed a contract with Madison, Indiana, boatbuilders for the construction of fifty-two by two feet beam and six feet hold, for the machinery of the dertnet Crescent City.

THE January thaw is one of the most disagreeable days we have experienced for a long time. The street crossings were the worst we have ever seen. If the city fathers are aware of that would make crossings passable for foot passengers he would be entitled to a vote of thanks.

THE Marietta *Times* says: A rumor is current, but we cannot trace it to any reliable source, that Captain Jesse Hall, who was killed in this city and on the Muskingum as late clerk of the steamer Lizzie Cassell, was among the killed in the recent horrible disaster at Ashtabula.

THE ice complications are growing in the Second river above Nashville, and the steamer Ozark, at Ozark Island, a gorge several miles in length has completely closed the river, leaving the steamboat and coal fleet all safe. The Ozark is clear river, however, between Memphis and Nashville.

A MEMPHIS dispatch says: Captain James Rees, of the steamer Maumelle, received a handsome forty-dollar mother overcoat as a holiday present from his friend C. H. Arthur. It is both useful and ornamental, and in the present inclement weather particularly acceptable. Captain Arthur left New Orleans for Washita river a few days since in command of the steamer Era No. 9.

THE Cheek Line of packets was sold by the United States Marshal at Nashville, Tennessee, on Monday last, for $10,000, and G. W. Cheek for $5,600, to Captain J. J. Darragh, and the A. C. White for $2,300 to Captain Jesse Hall. Both purchasers are connected with the Memphis and Arkansas River Packet Company. Captain Perry, County Clerk of Gallatin county, Ky., and part owner of the Bannock City, was a lively bidder.

THE Local Board of Inspectors of Steam Vessels at Nashville, Tennessee, during the past year have inspected the following boats: Seven ferry steamers, 8 towing steamers, 6 freight steamers, having an aggregate tonnage of 1,923 tons. Also inspected 5 barges of about 26 boiler sheets; issued license to 28 masters, 42 mates, 20 first-class pilots, 1 second-class pilot, one first engineer, 4 second engineers.

NEW ORLEANS.—The officers of the Katie report that on the present trip they experienced the roughest weather they ever saw. They encountered snow storms that they have ever witnessed. The cold was intense, and the sufferings of the guards others were engaged in shoveling the snow up in piles preparatory to throwing it overboard. Two deaths occurred while and down as far as the mouth of Red river.

THE Memphis *Avalanche* says: The flatboat people have a grave look, combined with rueful humor. Three or four of those who brought down tobacco and cotton in the early fall have sold their cargoes at $10,000 or $12,000 ahead, and those who had but a single boatload will have nothing to complain of. It is thought that there are still between 6,000 and 8,000 barrels of potatoes in our market, all of which will return a profit of as much as $2 per barrel to the owners.

THE Southern members of Congress are reported to be wide awake this winter. It is stated that before the Centennial adjourns they will unite to secure a system of protection for the alluvial lands of the Mississippi valley, and that they also intend to have the Pacific railway to touch the Mississippi at New Madrid, Vicksburg or Memphis. Representations, members of Congress from Arkansas, says, with enthusiasm, that they are bound to have it that there or, like the Hon. H. Slote, "will raise merry h—."

THE Sioux City *Journal* says: We are looking forward to another season of

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. S. G. SERV., PITTSBURGH, PA., JANUARY 8, 1877.

Time	Bar	Th'r	Hum	Dir.	Wind. Miles P hour	Weath
7 A M	29.32	28	85	N	8	snow
2 P M	29.81	37	63	N	14	snow
10 P M	30.021	32	83	N W	7	Cloudy

Mean barometer....29.945 Highest thermom.... 37
Mean thermom..... 17.2 Lowest thermom.... 11
Rain fall.....0.12*

*Melted snow.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY,
PITTSBURGH, January 8, 1877, 10:45 P. M.

Cairo, Ills.—Ther. 8; wind N. E.; clear.
Cincinnati—Ther. 9; wind S.; clear.
Davenport, Iowa—Ther. 6; wind N. E.; fair.
Denver, Col.—Ther. 40; wind N. W.; clear.
Indianapolis—Ther. 3; wind W.; clear.
Keokuk, Iowa—Ther. 4; wind S. W.; clear.
Leavenworth, Kan.—Ther. 13; wind S.; clear.
Louisville—Ther. 7; wind W.; clear.
Memphis, Tenn.—Ther. 16; clear.
Nashville—Ther. 9; clear.
Omaha, Neb.—Ther. 17; wind S.; cloudy.
Pittsburgh—Ther. 11; wind N. W.; cloudy.
Portland, Oregon—Ther. 46; wind N.; cloudy.
Salt Lake City—Ther. 40; wind S.; cloudy.
San Diego, Cal.—Ther. 53; N. E.; clear.
San Francisco, Cal.—Ther. 53; wind S.; clear.
Santa Fe, N. M.—Ther. 32; wind N. W.; clear.
Shreveport, La.—Ther. 36; clear.
St. Louis, Mo.—Ther. 9; wind S. W.; clear.
Vicksburg, Miss.—Ther. 31; wind N.; clear.
Virginia City—Ther. 39; wind S. W.; cloudy.
Fort Gibson—Ther. 13; wind S. E.; clear.

The Democracy.

The Democratic County Executive Committee met yesterday at the St. Charles Hotel and passed a series of resolutions claiming the election of Tilden and Hendricks to the Presidency and Vice Presidency, respectively. They present for the edification of Congress a series of declarations and denounce General Grant in unmeasured language.

Death of a Minister.

Rev. Hugh H. Blair died on Sunday at his residence in New York, after a protracted illness. Mr. Blair was sixty-seven years of age, and for forty-one years has been pastor of the First U. P. church of New York city. The deceased was born in Lawrenceville, and was a graduate, about 1830, of the Western University, of this city. He studied theology at the Associated Presbyterian Seminary at Canonsburg, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Albany, N. Y., in September, 1836. His uncle, Dr. Blair, resides at Indiana, Pa.

East End Burglaries.

The residence of Mr. Alex. Pitcairn, at Shadyside, was entered during Sunday night, the burglars effecting an entrance by boring out the panels of the front door, and unlocking the door from the inside. They carried off a coat and hat, which were found in the hall, also a number of silver rings belonging to the children, all amounting to about fifty dollars. The residence of Mr. W. J. Friday, in the same locality, was also visited, but the thieves were frightened away before obtaining any booty.

Correction.

The statement in our court reports yesterday, that Mr. Adam Reineman had made a voluntary assignment was a gross blunder. This all who know of Mr. Reineman and his circumstances would know at a glance. The items in the report should have read as follows:

Voluntary assignment of Martin Ley & Bro., Adam Reineman assignee. Sale confirmed Saturday.

Mr. Reineman is one of our most substantial citizens, and we regret the incorrect report made.

COUNTERFEITERS CAPTURED.

Two Notorious Members of a Gang of "Queer" Dealers in Jail.

Miles Ogle, *alias* George Ogle, *alias* J. F. Oglesby, and R. Johnston, *alias* R. W. Smith, were committed to jail yesterday by United States Commissioner Gamble, for trial, on the charges of making and passing counterfeit money. The story of their capture may be briefly told, as follows:

A United States detective (Rathbon) of Cincinnati has been shadowing Ogle since last September. Ogle is proprietor of a livery stable in the city named, and has, it is alleged, been doing an extensive "queer" business there.

On Saturday evening the detective perceived Ogle leave his house on Poplar street, and proceed up the line of the railroad, and across a bridge, to a place known as "Mill Creek Common," where he unearthed a large package of counterfeit money, the officer following and watching him. Mill Creek Common is near Brighton station, on the C. H. and D. R. R., and Detective Rathbon observed the operations of Ogle and Johnson (the latter having joined his pal) from between two freight cars. Having secured the package, which was afterward found to contain about $7,000 in counterfeit money and a number of first-class plates, Ogle and Johnston started back to town, passing the cars where Rathbon was concealed. Before their approach, the latter smeared some dirt on his face and hands, jumped on the car and successfully passed himself off as an employee of the train.

After allowing Ogle and Johnston to pass, the detective and an assistant followed them to Cincinnati, where they proceeded to the Little Miami depot and boarded a train, carrying the package of counterfeit money and the plates with them. They were followed by the detectives, who arrested them near Collier station on the Pan Handle road, the counterfeiters being taken by surprise and making very little resistance. While going through a tunnel one of them pulled a roll of counterfeit money from his pocket, and threw it on the floor, but the action was perceived by one of the detectives. They were brought to this city and taken to the Robinson House, where they remained until yesterday morning, when they were, as already stated, committed to jail for trial.

The counterfeit money consists principally of Richmond ten dollar notes, Lafayette fives and Muncy tens. The detectives state that Oglesby is the cleverest counterfeiter in this country, and that he made and issued the "Indiana tens," for shoving which numerous individuals are now in the penitentiary.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE firemen will be paid to-day for the month of December.

THE driver of car 47, on the Citizens' Passenger Railway, had an eye kicked out by one of his horses on Sunday.

THE attendance at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce was larger yesterday than is usual with that body.

THE average time consumed in passing a boat and tow through a Monongahela lock is twenty minutes. Recently thirty-eight were passed through in twelve hours.

THE mortuary report of Allegheny city, for the week, shows a total of fifteen deaths, only one of which was caused by smallpox. Two new cases of smallpox were reported yesterday.

CHARLES DILLON, an errand boy in the store of Silverman & Co., fractured his left arm yesterday by a fall on Fifth avenue, near Wood street. An iron grating caused the mischief.

THE contract with the East End Gas Company for supplying the city with gas having expired, the committee will prepare an ordinance fixing the rate to be paid at $1 32½ per 1,000 cubic feet instead of $1 57 heretofore paid.

LIQUOR MEN on the South Side have appointed a committee to look after and furnish aid to the poor in the Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth wards. Messrs. Michael Rogers, T. J. Richardson and William J. Nimick, the committee, will attend at Mechanics' Hall, Main street, on Thursday morning, where they will receive applications.

THE *Protestant Advance* has been reinstated, under the name of *The Advance*, and is now published at the old *Gazette* building, 122 Fifth avenue. Moore & Nesbit print the *Advance*, but they are not the publishers, as erroneously stated by a cotemporary, or in any way responsible for it, performing the same work they are ready to execute for others.

FIVE prisoners broke out of the Greensburg jail Saturday night. Their names and offenses are: Charles E. Butler, colored, rape; John Parton, Jacob McCurdy, Edmund Lighton and James Russel, larceny. Sheriff Guffey was engaged all night searching for the fugitives, but returned Sunday morning unsuccessful.

A DOMESTIC employed in the family of Mr. Harrington, at Woods Run, swallowed a gold plate, with two teeth attached, on Saturday, and yesterday morning, with the aid of powerful emetics, the plate and teeth were vomited in. The girl is now doing well. The plate was one and a quarter inch wide at the broadest part.

WHEN the hills are submerged the flood is high. The "Murphy movement" has reached Elsewhere, and the initial meeting of a series of temperance meetings in that quarter will be held tonight in the Wylie Avenue U. P. church at which Mr. Murphy himself and other prominent adherents of the movement are expected to be present.

THE Nashville *American* says: It is stated on good authority that the Standard Oil Company of Pittsburgh, has purchased some 30,000 acres of land in Tennessee, near the Kentucky line, and proposes to develop it for oil. This company is a formidable combination, owning and controlling as it does the great proportion of the refining capacity of the country.

GEORGE MCCHESNEY, a freight conductor on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad, was killed about three o'clock yesterday morning near Collier station. The train of which he was conductor was coming east, and the deceased was standing at a switch when his train ran back and struck him, causing his instant death. The unfortunate man was a resident of the Ninth ward, Allegheny, where he leaves a wife and five children.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

The Murphy Movement Indorsed—Lay Preaching Discussed—Union Meetings Proposed.

A regular monthly meeting of the Allegheny County Ministerial Association was held yesterday afternoon, in the lecture-room of the First Presbyterian church. In the absence of the Chairman, Rev. Mr. Templeton was chosen *pro tem*. The minutes were then read, after which the Rev. C. W. Smith, of the Smithfield Methodist church, Rev. Dr. Wheeler, of the *Christian Advocate*, Rev. Mr. Mumford, of Sawickley, and Rev. Dr. Marcus Ormond, were received as new members.

THE MURPHY MOVEMENT.

Rev. F. Leroy Senour stated that last week Professor Crane and himself had called on Mr. Francis Murphy, and consulted with him in reference to a meeting with the Ministerial Association, at an early day, to discuss, in a formal manner, the best methods for gathering up the results of the temperance movement, of which he is the head. Mr. Murphy expressed his willingness to meet the ministers and confer with them upon the matter suggested.

Rev. Mr. Donehoo moved that Mr. Murphy and Dr. Woods be invited to meet with the association, at two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon (to-day). He went on to explain that he desired the association under whose auspices Mr. Murphy was working to be represented at the conference.

After some discussion the matter was referred to a committee consisting of Revs. Donehoo, Senour, Crane, Ormond and Woodburn, to report during the session.

LAY PREACHING.

The Rev. C. E. Felton, D.D., of Christ M. E. church, then opened the subject for discussion: "What is the teaching of Scripture in regard to lay preaching?" He stated that the preaching of the gospel was a New Testament institution, and did not exist under the Jewish economy. After referring to the fact that Christ was the first preacher, and detailing the selection of apostles, who in turn chose assistants—deacons, deaconesses, etc., he remarked that the office of deacon did not originally extend beyond the control of temporal affairs. It was afterwards enlarged by the necessities of the work, and finally developed into the right to preach the gospel, as in the case of Stephen. Philip also preached the gospel, and there is no evidence that he had any other authority bayond his induction into the office of deacon. Philip as a layman became an evangelist and a teacher. There was not the same importance attached to the office of deaconess as to that of deacon, because the necessity which gave rise to it was of a temporary character. Whence comes the authority to preach? Undoubtedly a call from God, acting upon the heart and conscience of the individual called. But to avoid confusion, and guard against corruption of doctrine, the church decides who are called, inquires into their literary qualifications and regulates their ordination. But Mr. Moody, like other lay preachers, disclaims any authority except his call from God, and enters upon his work. As there is nothing in Scripture against his doing so, and as his labors seem eminently blessed, it was proper and right that he should continue in the work.

Dr. B. K. Ormond thought every layman has a scriptural right to preach, and not only so, but was bound to preach the gospel and publish the glad tidings. But they were not to preach the gospel officially, administer the sacraments or discharge the functions of a regularly ordained minister.

Dr. J. T. Cooper fully concurred with Dr. Ormond, but he thought it important to inquire whether the Head of the Church had set apart certain persons to preach the gospel—for the work of the ministry? We are told that He has set apart certain persons in the church for that purpose, and no one else has any authority to discharge the functions of the sacred office. Before, then, he how far may other persons, not so set apart, perform the duties of a minister? If a distinction is to be made here, what is that distinction? That is the important question. How far may men like Mr. Moody—filled with the love of Christ—go in the discharge of the ministerial office?

Dr. Pearson asked, What is the aim of preaching? For the perfecting of the saints and building up of the church of Christ. He thought all lay ministers ought to preach under the direction of the church to which they belong. It was the duty of those who had the gift to use it, but they should use it within the church to which they belong.

Mr. Scovel thought that the succession of lay preaching was perfect. First there were the seventy—laymen. Then we have the five hundred brethren to whom present when the great commission was given: "Go ye," etc. Then you have the labors of Stephen and Philip, and the succession goes on. "They went everywhere preaching the gospel." Who? The people; because the college of apostles was mainly at Jerusalem. The gift of prophesy carried with it the right to prophesy. You cannot well affirm miraculous gifts as conferred upon those without authority to use them. The lay preaching is therefore the true succession, and agrees with two distinctive principles of Protestantism—the right to private judgment and the centrality of the Bible. We hold our creeds, but above these we hold the right of private judgment, and for this judgment we are responsible only to God. If, with these views, we have peace in some church, there we may remain. If not, we can continue Christians outside any distinctive church organization. There was no difference, in his view, between lay preaching and the preaching of the ordained minister—not a particle. As far as administering the sacraments and ruling the church were concerned, there was a necessity for the clergy.

Rev. J. S. McConnell read from Luther the statement that every layman had the right to preach. He also cited the cases of Knox, Calvin, Bunyan, Fuller, Robert Hall and others, who preached without ordination.

Dr. W. J. Reid complimented Mr. Scovel on his remarks, but did not fully agree with him. What was preaching? Did it not comprehend more than administering the sacraments and ruling the church? Paul says "Ye are all witnesses for Christ." If by preaching you mean the general invitation, "come," then all should preach. But if you take the view that Christ's ministers are ambassadors, there should be no lay preaching.

Professor Crane thought the distinctive element was the authority of the church of Christ to preach. Lay preaching was well enough—a great help—but it should be confined within its proper sphere.

Dr. Wheeler remarked that the views advanced by Mr. Scovel struck him as rather broad. In the five hundred mentioned, there were certainly women, and perhaps children. Did the commission extend to women and children? There certainly was a distinction between the authority for lay preaching and the call to the full work of the ministry.

Mr. Scovel thought the distinction was, that the layman was to preach so far as his ordinary avocations would permit; and the preachers should devote their whole time to the work. He thought the distinction was clear and sufficient.

The discussion here closed.

MURPHY INDORSED.

Mr. Donahoo, from the committee above referred to, made a report, with a resolution extending to Mr. Murphy the earnest co-operation of the association, and a willingness to meet and confer with him at any time he might suggest. The report was adopted.

UNION MEETINGS.

The committee appointed on the subject of holding a series of Union meetings, after the manner of Moody and Sankey, reported favorably, and recommended that the Exposition building be secured for the purpose if possible. As the matter was not pressing, its further consideration was laid over until the next meeting.

THE NEXT TOPIC.

The next topic of discussion, to be introduced by Rev. R. W. Pearson, D.D., of Fourth Avenue Baptist church, on February 5th, is: "What are the Duties of the Christian Ministry with regard to the social Evil, and especially the recovery of Fallen Women?"

RAILWAY ELECTIONS.

Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston—Monongahela Inclined Plane.

The stockholders of the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railway held their annual election for directors yesterday at the office of the company, No. 61 Fourth avenue, which resulted as follows:

President—John Scott; Vice President—B. F. Jones; Directors—D. A. Stewart, W. J. Howard, Joseph Walton, H. B. Hays, M. B. Thompson, George V. Lawrence, Alexander Patton. The other officers were re-elected for the present year.

The reports of the officers were presented, for the year 1876. From these the following extracts are made: Total tonnage transported for the year, 119,012 tons, an increase of 32,515 over the previous year. Total number of passengers carried 253,276, an increase of 3,670 over 1875. As soon as the Port Perry bridge is built it is proposed to continue the road as far as Brownsville. The present terminus of the road is Monongahela city, thirty miles from Pittsburgh.

The following were elected to serve as officers of the Monongahela Incline Plane for the ensuing year:

President—Samuel Harper. Secretary and Treasurer—John L. Awl. Directors—Wm. M. Lyon, Withrow Douglass, John S. McMillin, Jas. M. Bailey, Wm. Halpin, Geo. W. Beltzhoover and John L. Awl.

The following were yesterday elected Directors of the Central Passenger Railway: E. P. Jones, Willis Boothe, A. M. Brown, Charles P. Duff, R. G. Herron, John T. Patterson, F. J. Herron.

Rivermen in Murphy's Army.

The following steamboatmen and others, boarders at the Weyman House, on Water street, have signed Murphy's pledge: Captains, C. K. Winnet, George G. Farrow, N. W. Carter, Lige Carter, D. D. Sims, C. B. Wishart: Mates, J. Hefferlick, W. Hefferlick, George Stone, George Toppin, Jas. Latis, Thomas Dickson, J. B. Timoney, William Miller, D. Sickman, Jas. French, Charles McCartney, William Bonner, J. W. Wayman, Jas. Knox, Robert Walker, Frank Kennedy, Wm. Stieb, Jas. Brown, Charles Henning, L. Mehaffey, J. C. Sims, William Weyman.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The New Dams Proposed in the Youghiogheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers—A Bill Prepared Ceding Lands—City Bonds—Trans Allegheny Canal.

The directors of the Chamber of Commerce met yesterday afternoon, after the holiday recess, John F. Dravo, Esq., in the chair. There were present, also, Messrs. Moorhead, Marvin, Meyran, Kirk, Carpenter, Herron, Seibeneck, Beamer, Stockdale and Kelly, secretary.

With reference to the safety of public buildings, Mr. Meyran reported that a general bill could only be passed by the Legislature for cities of the three different classes. He suggested that such legislation be requested.

On motion, the committee heretofore appointed was instructed to prepare a bill.

General Moorhead, from the committee appointed to draft, bill ceding plot of ground for dam at Davis' Island, presented a draft of a bill, together with the following:

MEMORIAL TO THE LEGISLATURE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania:

Your memorialists, "The Chamber of Commerce of the city of Pittsburgh," would respectfully represent that application was made to the Legislature in 1874 for the passage of "An act to grant the consent of the State of Pennsylvania to the acquisition by the United States, of certain lands within the limits of Pennsylvania on Ohio river, for the purpose of erecting thereon dams, abutments, locks, lock-houses, offices and the necessary structures for the construction and maintenance of slackwater navigation on said river and ceding jurisdiction over the same."

That said act was promptly passed by both Houses, but upon examination it was found that some of its provisions were in conflict with the Constitution just then adopted, and it became the duty of the Governor (although strongly in favor of its main principles) to veto it. An amended act, which included the Monongahela with the Ohio river, was submitted to the Attorney General of the State and approved by him, and then presented to the Legislature in 1875. This act passed the House early in the session without opposition, but for some reason failed to receive attention in the Senate. Again, in 1876 it was presented in the House, passed first and second reading, and was ordered April 5, 1876, to be transcribed for a third reading, where, your memorialists regret to say, it rested.

The War Department having the improvement of rivers in charge, addressed the Governor on the subject, and he at once communicated the correspondence to the Legislature, which consisted of a letter from the Secretary of War concurring a report from Gen. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers, and one from Colonel Merrill, Engineer of the Ohio and Monongahela rivers, setting forth the importance of having the bill passed. The Governor in his message says: I earnestly ask the attention of your honorable body thereto, that the necessary legislation may be had to prevent any further delay, and that the States of Ohio and West Virginia have made the proper cessions. This message with its accompanying documents will be found in the Legislative record of 1876, page 2248.

Your memorialist therefore respectfully asks the passage of the bill here with, which is the same as that referred to by the Governor, being House bill 276 of last session.

The memorial was adopted, and the bill was approved and ordered to be sent to the Legislature through one of our members.

The action of General Moorhead in communicating to the Governor on the subject was approved, and thanks tendered.

On motion it was decided to amend the bill, so as to include the Youghiogheny river.

THE TRANS-ALLEGHENY CANAL.

Mr. Dravo, Mr. Kirk in the chair, presented the following:

WHEREAS, Cheap transportation is demanded alike by the individual and general interest of the people; and whereas, adequate and reliable cheap transportation routes, free from the combinations of railroads or sectional interests between the great West and Atlantic seaboard, is of national importance; and, whereas, several of such routes have been proposed and urged upon public attention—

And whereas, this Chamber is of the decided opinion that the "Trans-Alleghenny" route, the "Youghiogheny and Conemaugh" line, the shortest and cheapest of construction, therefore

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their utmost efforts to secure such appropriations as may be required to speedily commence work on this important national line of water communication between the East and West.

Resolved, That the Superintendent of this chamber be requested to furnish Senators Cameron and Mitchell and Representatives Hopkins and Cochran, with a copy of these proceedings.

The preamble and resolutions were adopted.

CITY BOND AND PENN AVENUE DECISION.

Mr. Marvin said his attention had been called to the fact that over $100,000 of city bonds would fall due this year, and that in view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the Penn avenue case it might be well to take some action. If the city was compelled to pay the five millions and more of street improvement bonds it would be a serious thing. The city had avoided and have the debt funded at a lower rate of interest. Mr. Marvin said he merely brought up the matter for consideration.

Mr. Dravo said a committee might be appointed to examine into the matter and report.

Mr. Kirk suggested that it might be a little out of the line of the board; that it was the province of Councils to act in the matter, and the board should be cautious.

General Moorhead said such action might be a little premature, as lawyers differed as to the result of the decision, and it was not certain yet what effect it would have.

Mr. Meyran thought that the Board should keep an eye on the subject, but no action was yet needed. It was not the intention of the old city to assume the additional debt. As for himself, he would fight it to the last. The people who clamored for the improvements should pay for them.

No action was taken.

Superintendent Murphy called attention to the fact that there was a committee of the Board on Arbitration, who was prepared to settle disputes and misunderstandings between merchants.

Adjourned.

THE TEMPERANCE ALLIANCE.

Resolutions Indorsing Francis Murphy.

At the regular meeting of the Temperance Alliance yesterday, the following resolutions were offered and adopted:

Resolved, That recognizing the great good that God has already accomplished and still has in progress in our midst in the temperance cause through the instrumentality of Mr. Francis Murphy, we will continue to pray that Mr. Murphy may be strengthened and guided for still greater works in the good cause in which he is engaged, and while thus co-operating with Mr. Murphy and praying for his success we wish to inform friends of the cause at a distance, who may not be privileged to hear Mr. Murphy, that there is nothing miraculous about him, but is a practical Christian, abounding in the Christian virtues, against which there is no law, and which every professor of the Christian religion is under obligation to practice.

Resolved, That, recognizing the Christian duty that every man is his brother's keeper, we would improve this opportunity to urge every professor of religion to buckle on the whole Christian armor, and co-operate with Mr. Murphy in advancing the cause of Christ and humanity.

Resolved, That we rejoice that God has put it into the hearts of our City Councils to pass an ordinance abating the waiting girl nuisance.

Resolved, We shall ever pray that God will assist our city fathers in wisdom, that men and women may be sheltered and saved from the results of a business that is bringing only misery and want to our city.

THE POOR.

Meeting of the Society for Their Relief and Improvement.

The Society for the Relief and Improvement of the Poor met, yesterday afternoon, Mrs. William A. Herron presiding. The visitors for the several districts into which the city is divided reported increased want and suffering during the past week. The work of the ladies has been more laborious than at any time since the establishment of the society, not only by the increased want but by the inclemency of the weather that causes more than usual suffering. The following is a summary of the work of the week ending January 1, 1877:

Number of visits paid	544
Number of families relieved by association	194
Number of families relieved by churches	7
Number of shoe orders given	45
Number of coal orders given	22
Number of intemperate families visited	39
Number signed pledge	9
Number united with churches	3
Number of sabbath school scholars obtained	12
Number provided with employment	6
Cash contributions	$4 00
Tickets sold	3 00
Dispensary tickets disposed of	0

Of those who were aided there were: Episcopal, 27; Presbyterian, 39; Baptist, 29; Methodist, 80; Catholic, 70; Lutheran, 27; Unitarian, 2; not connected with any denomination, 244.

One of the visitors reported that during the past week she had been deceived by a family that had been getting regular needful relief. They had been given a grocery order to the amount of $1 79, and it was received by the addition of several articles to $2 22. The visitor asked for advice as to action in such case. It was suggested that the family be brought to a realizing sense of the wrong and that prayer be offered with them that such temptation be hereafter resisted.

The ladies appear to be doing a good work in which they should be liberally supported.

The "Bond of Friendship" Case.

The Supreme Court yesterday rendered a decision reaffirming the judgment in the famous Clark-McCully case, and Mr. Clark will now, no doubt realize whatever amount of the $75,000 he is to receive—the estate having some claims in the way of offsets.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Annual Election of Directors.

The shareholders of the several local insurance companies met yesterday and elected directors for the ensuing year, as noted below:

PITTSBURGH.

UNION—James H. Hopkins, A. G. Cubridge, Charles A. Colton, J. C. Luppe, Charles Meyran, William Douglas, John Evans, Jacob H. Walter, Wm. Halpin, G Stengel, Geter C. Shidle, John B. Dunevy.

GERMAN—C. Barckfield, Joseph Lang, A. Grotzinger, C. Hoevelier, H. E. Weich, Anthony Meyer, H. Dallmeyer, J. W. Tim, J F. Havekotte, H. Herr, F. Linke, Charles F. Schwartz.

ALLEMANIA—R. C. Schmertz, Wm. F. Lang, William Carr, Martin Heyl, Joseph Abel, Christian Seibert, T. J. Craig, J. Ludewig Koethen, C. F. Wells, J. Fred. Schroeder, John Daub, Peter Keil.

IRON CITY—John R. Gregg, M. B. Brown, S. Beymer, D. G. Ernott, R. M. Kennedy, G. W. Coffin, George Alexander, T. W. Baker, David Gregg, William Stevenson, C. B. Faulson, John Cowley, John M. Irwin.

CITY—Robert J. Anderson, Captain R. J. Grace, Wilson Cunningham, Robert B. Townend, G. L. B. Fetterman, Charles Maginn, A. F. Dalzell, Captain J. S. Adams, Thomas Rourke, Jr., William Barker, F. T. Plunkett, Samuel Reynolds, John R. Gloninger.

ALLEGHENY—John Irwin, Jr., Captain William Dean, C. G. Hussey, Charles Hays, B. L. Fahnestock, W. H. Everson, Theo. H. Nevin, Hugh S. Fleming, James S. McCord, George W. Cochran, John F. Robinson, Joseph T. Speer.

PEOPLE'S—James Herdman, William Vankirk, Charles Artuckle, Samuel McCrickart, Jared M. Brush, Captain Joun L. Rhodes, A. R. Sneas, John Farrell, P. Scaife, William F. Lang, John F. Dravo, J. B. D Meeds.

BOATMAN'S—James A. Hutchinson, R. C. Gray, James Rees, H. W. Oliver, Jr., John P. Smith, J. Bigley, Edward Gregg, Thomas Donnelly, J. A. Warden, O. P. Scaife, Robert Munroe, John G. Holmes, James H. Sewell.

ARTISANS—Wm. H. Smith, John Moorhead, Abraham Garrison, James P. Barr, Malcolm Hay, John Dunlap, Wm. Coleman, William Restage, Sullivan Johnson, Madison Bailey, F. M. Hutchinson, John Birmingham.

ENTERPRISE—Robert Liddell, Joachim Weisser, M. C. Kane, Henry Daub, J. J. Jahn, W. J. Friday, F. Mason, A. Ensing, Thos. Bingham, C. Kucker, W. Waechter, John Thoma.

HOUSEHOLDERS—Peter Zorn, Martin Heil, A. L. Reiman, Wm. Loeffler, Fred Smith, Jacob Senoll, Charles Seidenbricker, C. J. Hillard, William Wittenberg, E. W. Swenzel, John Froelich, J. J. Slevin.

ARMENIA—S. S. D. Thompson, M. G. Clark, John D. Scully, Jacob M. Walter, J. G. Hopkins, Irwin McNeill, John Heath, A. Weise, Henry Warner, George Wilson, James Laughlin, Jr., J. Palmer O'Neil, Robert H. Dalzell, John A. Myler, James Marshall, Wm. T. Dunn, W. W. Speer, David Gilmore, E. A. Curtiss, J. C. Lewis, S. McCune.

CASH—Robert H. King, John F. Jennings, Samuel McClurkan, John Floyd, James M. Bailey, N. A. Bigley, John S. Willock, Captain Madison Bailey, Daniel Wallace, Thomas Smith, Hon. John M. Kirkpatrick, Major Adam H. Brown.

MANUFACTURERS—James I. Bennett, A. E. W. Painter, John W. Chalfant, Robert Lee, I. C. Pershing, Wm. Walker, Mark W. Watson, John Wilson, Joseph Walton, C. W. Bracher, S. F. Von Bonnhorst and Geo. W. Haliman.

ALLEGHENY.

BEN FRANKLIN—Henry Irwin, George W. Riddle, Simon Drum, William M. Stewart, Joseph Lautner, Jacob Franz, J. B. Smith, John A. Negley, Jr., Peter Geyer, R. B. Mowry, M. D., N. H. Voegtly, J. C. Patterson, C. F. Ingham, John Meyerhoffer.

NATIONAL—H. M. Boyle, J. F. Bollstein, R. R. Francis, H. Handel, James Lockhart, John A. Myler, Joseph McNaughter, John Porterfield, James Richey, Jr., Alfred Slack, John Thompson, C. P. Wniston, Dr. John Hamilton.

FEDERAL—A. McFarland, W. J. Langfitt, Valentine Baker, J. H. Borland, S. Severance, W. Geo. Gibson, Wm. Schover, H. H. Rutherford, Jr., J. W. Ely, Samuel Dyer, Wm. Roseburg, S. B. Smith.

TEUTONIA—Henry Gerwig, John C. Fleiner, Adam Wiese, Gottlieb Faas, N. H. Voegtly, Damas Lutz, Frederick H. Ergers, F. J. Lemke, Conrad Speidel, Jacob Mutzig, Leonard Walter, Frederick Lang, Joseph Lautner, John H. Lotz, C. W. Anschutz.

HUMBOLDT—L. Weiderhoid, Thomas J. Graff, John Selling, Albert Schwerdt, F. J. Weise, John Berger, Henry Yeager, John Herchenrother, Adam Eret, Adam Heyl, H. Landgraf and P. Urling.

Bank Elections.

The following banks held elections for directors yesterday, with the result noted:

UNITED STATES—D. Z. Brickell, J. B. Ayer, R. D. Armstrong, Jacob Phillips, Wm. Thaw, Jr., James A. C. Patterson, Rosenbaum, Wm. E. Frazier, Jr., N. P. Reed, A. C. Wilson, Charles Holmes, R. M. Kennedy, John Palmer.

NATIONAL BANK FOR SAVINGS—Arthur Hastings, Jacob Bieber, John A. Myler, J. H. Elton, Alfred Slack, James Hemphill, Frederick Eshelman, C. C. Boyle, John Heath.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court:—Judge Ketcham.

Masonic Bank, of this city, filed a petition in bankruptcy against John H. McMasters, of this city. The usual order was issued.

A. L. Foote, bankrupt, Luzerne county. Petition for discharge presented and the usual order made for hearing before Register Willard.

John C. Flenniken, bankrupt, of Greene county. Assignee's return of sale of real estate confirmed *nisi*.

Hook & Wise, bankrupts, Greene county. Rule on assignees to show cause why they should not pay certain moneys to the attorneys of B. F. Hook & Co., bankrupts, in the State of Maryland.

James T. Wood and Charles A. Wood, bankrupts, city. Order made for meeting of creditors before Register Harper on the 31st.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Sterrett and Collier.

In the matter of the voluntary assignment of Michael Nicolous. Confirmation of sale set aside and an alias order granted authorizing the assignee to resell.

John White, Jr., and George Gerst, assignees of Philip Gerst, deceased, in trust for creditors, vs. Ann Nowman. Non-suit entered.

Archibald Kelly & Co. vs. W. H. D. Parr, administrator. Verdict for plaintiffs for $101 50, subject to opinion of Court on question of law reserved.

In the matter of the voluntary assignment of M. Ley & Bro. to Adam Reineman, report of sale was confirmed.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Bricker vs City of Pittsburgh; McClaren vs. Kerr; Nannas vs. Beirin; Rumsey vs. Nebran; Spence vs. Cunningham; Robinson vs. Armstrong; Duquesne National Bank vs. Snodgrass; Ferron vs. Walton; Alvin vs. Felton; Brown vs. Shaw et al.; Gordon et al. vs. Pennsylvania Railroad Company; Benner & Son vs. Born & Co.; East End Mutual B. and L. Association vs. Guardian, vs. Connor; Bingham-Herron Mfg Co. vs. Straw; Lowry et al. vs. Maple; Myers vs. Nusser, two cases; McNulty vs. Benny; Bruck vs. Bauer.

Common Pleas No. 2—Full Bench.

The first seven on the list of cases against John McCloskey growing out of the explosion of the Tigress No. 2 were resumed before Judge Ewing. The various suits for damages were in the case of Samuel Lawton, Robert F. Feather, Harriet A. Tarr, mother of John Tarr, Thomas Wilmont and Robert Tarr, all of the cases being tried together. The suit of Mrs. Tarr is brought to recover damages for the death of her son, John Tarr, and the other plaintiffs sue for damages received by the explosion. On trial.

E. H. Meyer and Frank Kohme, administrators, vs. Joseph Greenwalt, action on a bond. On trial before Judge White.

Ann Hare vs. Herman Miersch. J. M. Caldwell, Esq., appointed commissioner to take the deposition of certain parties.

The Fairoaks Regular Baptist Church, on petition presented, was granted a charter of incorporation.

Orphans' Court—Judge Hawkins.

William E. Harrison was appointed guardian of J. Ross, Mary Ross and John Hugh Ross, minors.

Samuel Hunter, deceased, in partition. Petition presented and inquest awarded, returnable March 1, 1877.

Decrees of distribution were made in the estates of John S. Hall, James Campbell and Sarah Dowdle, deceased.

Widows' appraisements were presented and approved *nisi* in the estates of Charles Nelson, J. H. Dittler and Robert Forrester.

Dennis Hunt, deceased. Rule granted on Henry Huch to show cause why his discharge as administrator should not be revoked and he be reinstated.

Charles F. Benz, minor. O. B. Stevenson appointed guardian.

James McTighe *et al.* in partition. Time for return of rule to show cause why an inquest may make partition should not be awarded extended until January 13th.

Andrew Bedell, deceased, in partition. Petition presented and citation awarded to show cause why an inquest should not be awarded.

Henry S. Brown, minor. Petition presented, and, on choice of minor, Michael Parrott was appointed guardian. Bond in the sum of $2,000 was filed and approved. This court will not be in session to-day, but will meet again on Wednesday morning.

Quarter Sessions—Judge Stowe.

George Owens was convicted of larceny, Daniel Dindley being the prosecutor. The former stole from the prosecutor's wife a shawl and a scarf.

C. Louis Stroub, indicted for assault and battery on oath of C. O. Hammer, pleaded *nolo contendere*.

William Johnson, indicted for false pretenses, Arthur Dunn being the prosecutor, pleaded *nolo contendere*.

A *nolle prosequi* was allowed in the case of Thomas D. Reese, charged with seduction and fornication.

Albert Stehle and John Straub were acquitted of a charge of larceny.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Organization of the Two Branches for 1877—David Aiken, Jr., Elected President of Select, and Major William E. Negley of Common Council—Reception of the Rules of 1876—Vetoes by the Mayor, &c., &c.

The members of the two branches of the City Councils for 1877 met yesterday afternoon for organization.

SELECT BRANCH.

Clerk Morrow called this branch to order at two o'clock, and after the certificates of election presented by new members had been read, Messrs. David Aiken, Jr., of the Twentieth ward, and J. Guy McCandless, of the Eighth ward, were nominated. Mr. Aiken was elected on first ballot by a vote of 37 to 15 for his competitor. He was then escorted to the chair and in a neat speech returned his thanks. He dwelt briefly upon the serious condition of the city's financial affairs. The oath of office was then administered to him. After the call of the roll the rules of the preceding Councils were adopted for the government of the present body.

The Clerk then read several communications from the Mayor vetoing the following ordinances:

Ordinance authorizing the assessment of damages and benefits caused by grading Sarah street from Thirtieth to the city line. The reason for the veto is given as follows: "It directs the body of Viewers to assess damages and benefits for grading Sarah street between Thirtieth and the city line, when in fact the grading has not been done, and an injunction restraining the work having been issued by the Court of Common Pleas No. 1, April 14, 1875, which is still in effect."

Ordinance fixing the salary of the Message Clerk. Reason—"as on its face it creates a new office with a salary of $500 per year."

Ordinance entering into a contract with the Pittsburgh Gas Company and granting them privilege to change the grade on Second avenue near their works so that they can lay a railroad switch. Reason—"The powers of the Councils in respect to the control of streets are held in trust for the public benefit and cannot be surrendered or delegated by contract to a private corporation as this contract does to the Gas Company in the matter of the grade of a portion of Second avenue."

Action was postponed on the former two vetoes and the latter was referred to the City Solicitor.

The members then proceeded to select their seats. Those defective in hearing were allowed to choose seats near the President's desk, while the others cast lots for their choice. Mr. Evans, of the Twenty-third ward, secured the first choice and Mr. Powers, of the Thirteenth ward, second choice. Mr. Carr, from the Twenty-e